

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 6

Terri Hall, Founder/Director

Texans for Toll-free Highways/Texas TURF

San Antonio, TX

We support HB 6 because without free and fair elections that the public can trust, we cannot have a true representative Republic that ensures our representatives are the voice of the people who elect them. We support speedy passage of HB 6 because it encourages in-person voting, which is more secure. it prohibits public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications, bans ballot harvesting, and increases poll watcher access (improved transparency) , provides prosecution teeth for violations. However, please note, Sec 276.018 (b) needs to be removed from this bill! It allows election officials to alter election code with permission of the Secretary of State. Only the legislature should alter election code - not appointed bureaucrats! Other requested changes include requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots and requiring routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.

Bradi Carney

Self

Arlington, TX

As a US citizen, voting is my only right. There is nothing more sacred in America than the individual right to vote in a fair and free election. What took place this year was absolutely a travesty, what is even worse, is it was allowed. THIS IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ME.

Texas Republicans have to pull ahead of the country in showing we know how to ensure every legal vote counts and every illegal vote gets thrown out. Whether that is demanding paper ballots or a fail safe auditing system that is complete and transparent. No ballot harvesting. No voters without valid ID. No machines that are subject to fraud.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate those that serve with honor and integrity.

James Simpson, Mr.

Self

Pearland, TX

I work elections in Brazoria country for at least 15 years. I have never seen such corruption in my life in our county.

James Simpson

Jill Bailey

Self

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose HB6. It is nothing more than an attempt at voter suppression.

Randall Higgins

Self truck driver

Katy, TX

There is no evidence of significant voter fraud in Texas.

While 'integrity' 'purity' and 'prevention of fraud' cause visceral reactions among politicians, these words have been written to conceal illicit motives.

Voters are being intimidated; threatened with criminal penalties which discourage their honest attempts to exercise their right to vote. Voters who have never attempted nor committed crimes realize that this bill targets them. The act of voting becomes a suspicious move. Enforcement officials may be encouraged to stop and investigate whomever their governor, judge, or mayor wishes to discourage from voting.

The rhetoric of voter fraud is derived from the 'Stop the Steal' debacle our former president inflicted on us.

Have some sense, do not attack voters out of bitterness.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I support HB6. Texas, as well as other states NEED election integrity, as we are becoming very leery of elections, both state and federal. We have realized now that people vote that are Dead, Illegal and fraudulent. Now, we are aware of ballot harvesting, machines that switch votes (example: Dallas machines), ballots being sent to people that are not disabled or over 65, not having to prove citizenship or even signature validation and extended acceptance of ballots before and after the election. We used to assume that our elections were free and honest, now they are suspect and our faith has faltered. We must have election integrity and I support HB6.

John Sefcik

self

Fairview, TX

March 22, 2021

Support for HB 6

I support the HB6 in its purpose to apply election law evenly across the State. It will do this by codifying election procedures in more detail and defining when violations are criminal.

John Brewer, Mr

self/retired

,New Braunfels, TX

As an Election Judge in Comal County I support this bill. Thank you. John Brewer

Arnetta Murray

Consult in the AM

Rosharon, TX

I think its sad that you are all going through these great lengths regarding voting. Can you use this energy for taxes? How about ensuring cooperations participate equally in appropriations of taxes just like ordinary Americans. I know the importance of businesses however, all these voting restrictions are unnecessary. Can you focus on getting the GRID in order and regulate energy fairly?

Frances Riley
self/college professor
Helotes, TX

NO TO HB 6 AND ABBOTT'S CORRUPT AGENDA!!!!!!
We will vote him out next year. HE MUST GO!!!!

Eden Myers
self (na)
Austin, TX

What we have now works- there is virtually no documented voter fraud in Texas, and what has been documented represented someone breaking laws we already have on the books. Let's enforce the laws we have instead of passing new ones that further restrict our rights. Money and resources are tighter than ever in this year's budget at all levels- why spend a bunch of either on a bunch of laws that aren't needed? If we want more secure elections, spend all this time and money on making sure voters aren't being manipulated or surveilled on social media. Thank you, Eden Myers

Dalton Brown, Mr
Self, cook
Keller, TX

As a Texas citizen I want section 276.018 (b) removed because it allows election officials alter the code. Only the legislature should alter election code. Both this bill and the senate bill can be improved upon by: (1) requiring voter identification for mail in and absentee ballots and (2) routine verification of voter roles and new registrations. With those issues I am in support of this bill. We the people want security in our elections.

Victoria Salin
Self (professor)
College Station, TX

I strongly oppose new requirements for a disabled person to provide additional documentation of the person's condition in order to vote by mail. There are a number of people, especially veterans, who have disabilities that are not readily apparent to outsiders and should remain private. HB 6 seeks to add a burdensome process on the disabled when in Texas we do not have problems with fraud related to vote-by-mail.

The proposed bill also will add civil penalties on elections officials for delay in managing the voter lists. I ask legislators to have faith in the local elections officials and work in collaboration with them and the Secretary of State to update voter lists according to the law. I support accurate voter lists which are managed in a way that allows voters a chance to register in time for the next election. Our state has many mobile people, making the job of registering and monitoring lists very challenging, as the members of the Elections Committee know very well. Please do not allow the state law to punish local elections officials who are doing

their best to register eligible voters.

I also strongly oppose a state law that limits the hours of early voting to no later than 7 pm or a 12-hour period. Early voting in Texas is a great success and helpful to many residents of all political views. I ask that you keep in mind that many people work long days and, the more flexibility that they have in voting, the more support our elected officials will have. While I personally have enough flexibility in my work schedule to early vote, I have family and friends who would be disadvantaged by the state making it more difficult for elections officials to serve all the voters who wish to cast a ballot.

Elections in Texas should be free, fair, and accessible to everyone who wants to vote. As the restrictions of HB 6 are considered, I ask that you kindly insist on evidence that the purity of the ballot box has been at risk under the current system. HB 6 should not become part of the law in Texas. Thank you for taking my views into account when you make your decision on HB 6.

James Finney

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vote no on HB 6. There has been no evidence of substantial voter fraud in Texas. This bill is an attempt to make voting more difficult. It is an unnecessary bill and should not be passed. Please work on bills that will encourage true democracy and make it easier for Texas voters to cast their vote. I will not vote for any legislator who encourages or passes this bill....

Jerry Rubli

Self, real Estate Agent

Spring, TX

- No voting equipment can be used that is capable of being connected to the internet. Its selection and employment by a knowledgeable official would be a felony.
 - Electronic jamming equipment should be utilized to ensure no internet communication.
 - Certification by an independent third party that voting equipment is not connected to the internet.
-

JENNIFER YOCH, Mrs.

Self Teacher

BLUE RIDGE, TX

Please support HB6. This bill is very good because it does the following:

1. Encourages in-person voting, which is more secure
2. Prohibits public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications
3. Bans ballot harvesting
4. Increases poll watcher access (improved transparency)
5. Provides prosecution teeth for violations
6. **Need to remove Sec 276.018 (b) which lets election officials alter election code with permission of the Secretary of State (only the legislature should alter election code - not appointed bureaucrats)

The bill needs to have the following added:

7. Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
8. Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Thanks for all you do for Texas.

Anthony Padilla, President TARA

Texas Alliance for Retired Americans -TARA

Buda, TX

Mr. Chairman, my name is Anthony Padilla, I am the President of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans representing retirees and members of the community in Texas. I am an advocate to making voter participation less restrictive. Texas is already one of the hardest states to vote in in the country. Legislators on both sides of the aisle should be expanding the right to vote, not restricting it. Together, SB7 and HB6 would:

- Ban drive-through and outdoor voting, should not be adopted into law.
- Restrict voters from dropping off completed absentee ballots, should not become law.
- Criminalize small mistakes for people assisting voters to register, should not become law.
- Discourage volunteers from driving voters, including the elderly, to polling places, should not become law.
- Eliminate large voting sites meant to make voting quicker should not become law.
- Mandate overzealous and voter roll purges that would disqualify many eligible voters, should not become law.
- Increase burdens on voters with disabilities to access assistance at the polls, should not become law.

Many other provisions of these bills are to suppress the vote, and this should not be allowed.

The Texas Alliance for Retired Americans oppose these bills.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Sincerely,

Anthony Padilla
President of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans
303 Black Cap Run
Buda, Texas 78610
Cell 512-552-i703
e-mail: tonypadillatcuiaam@austin.rr.com

Rebecca Bonugli, Dr.

Dr. Rebecca Bonugli

San Antonio, TX

I firmly oppose HB 6. In reality, this bill is an attempt to make voting more difficult and should not be passed. There has been no evidence of substantial voter fraud in Texas. Please work on bills that will encourage true democracy and make it easier for Texas voters to cast their vote. I will not vote for or support any legislator who encourages or passes this bill.

Thank you

Wendy Fenn

Reverend

DALLAS, TX

Voting is a right - and restrictions placed on voting indicate that the party attempting such a thing fears they cannot win when the people assert their true will. Please recognize your responsibility as elected officials to ensure that fairness of one person one vote is preserved.

Jeaneane McNulty
self - yoga teacher

AUSTIN, TX

As a voter in Texas, 78728 as well as having served as an election judge and poll worker, I strongly oppose HB6 and urge the committee to vote NO on this bill. Texas already has one of the most restrictive voter registration and elections systems in the country, and the result is not less fraudulent elections. The amount of proven fraud in the Texas system is miniscule - only 16 cases according to the Texas Observer. Out of over 11 million votes cast (and that's just in the 2020 Presidential election) that amounts to a fraud risk of less than 2 hundredths of 1 percent. No - the result of Texas' already restrictive elections system is low voter turnout. And the aim of this bill is to keep it that way - particularly in regards to voters who may find it difficult or intimidating to cast their ballots. Finding number 3 of this bill is objectively false; on that basis alone, if nothing else, I urge this committee to oppose this HB6. Thank you for hearing my comments.

Kenneth Bullock

Convention of states

Katy, TX

I am a U.S. army combat vet. I served in the cold war patrolling the East German and communist czech border before the wall came down. I also proudly served to liberate Kuwait from the evils of Saddam's oppression. I have seen the evils of communism and oppressive regimes and was always proud to be an American. Over the years I have become less proud and more disappointed in how my government and it's representatives have given away our freedoms or traded them for political gain or purposes.

I have always felt that election integrity is very important. The 2020 election was a huge disappointment...not purely because of the results but in that it felt rigged it felt cheated and worst yet those who addressed legitimate concerns were brushed off as trouble makers. We need to guarantee integrity of our elections or we are doomed as a country.

Marion Wilson

self

Richardson, TX

You should present evidence of any fraud and legally pursue the persons responsible. If you find you have no evidence, you should move forward with the lack of proof of NO fraud and make voting easier for the legal residents of this state. To arbitrarily try to seize power by taking away my right and take away the rights of other legal residents is shameful. God has his eyes on you and so do I.

Nancy Groves

True Texas Project

Colleyville, TX

In person voting should be the norm preferably on VOTING DAY. Allowing weeks to vote allows weeks for fraud. Vote by mail should be for the ill or the military only. NO vote-by mail applications should be distributed. More poll watchers should be allowed. Voters should be required to provide valid ID without exception. It is completely ignorant to not require ID. Those opposed as we know just want the ability to cheat.

Section 276.018 needs to be removed. Only our elected legislature should alter election code.

Birdie Kelley

Self / Election Judge and Ballot Board Member

Missouri City, TX

Last week I was informed by the Elections Administrator's office that the VDVR (Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar) certification that I had received after taking the online VDR Zoom Training in January of 2021, was not valid. Possible reasons for this being that I signed in on the call late, left the call early, or had bad reception. I was told that my name was one of 150 that had taken the January Zoom Training that had been "flagged". My name had "45" beside it, indicating that I had only stayed on the call for 45 minutes. I actually signed in 15 minutes early. The call lasted for 1 hour and 5 minutes and I was on the call the entire time.

There was obviously an error made in my case that the Director of Elections Administrations was prepared to rectify. But what about the other 149 VDRs? Disqualifying 149 VDRs would take away their ability to register voters, which would take away the opportunity for a lot of people to actually vote.

HB 6 is a proposal to create criminal offences for possible missteps on the part of family members or friends who try to help senior citizens- the elderly members of our society who are making an effort to exercise their hard-fought right to vote. A lot of these seniors have vision impairments and are unable to see the forms well enough to fill them out. A lot of them have arthritis in their hands and fingers and can't even write their names. Some of them are actually illiterate and cannot read or write at all. Creating these criminal offences will discourage those who would have assisted them. And without this assistance, some of these people might not be able to vote. By depriving them of the ability to cast their ballot on Election Day, would be creating a definite problem in order to prevent a potential one.

Diana Duron

Self

El paso, TX

I am writing regarding this bill. I believe this bill is discriminatory and gerrymandering to the voting class. In 2020 governor Abbet reduce the curbside ballot boxes to one per county which disenfranchised counties like Harris county with population of 4.713 million to only one curbside ballot box turn county has 2.103 million population again with one curbside ballot box in 2020 I reside in El Paso with a population of 951,000 again with one curbside ballot box in 2020. Governor Abbet and a G Paxton are attempting to do everything to disenfranchise the legitimate voters to come out and vote as they target the poor and low income population.

Now this bill is requesting a doctors letter or Social Security document showing disability does that mean governor Abbet my show proof of his wheelchair disability and his paralysis does this also mean AG Paxton's disability with his eyesight we hope they will bring forth their doctors letters so we can see them also. One realizes many poor and low income cannot afford the transportation to get to clinics or government organizations to get doctor statements or documents mini or wheelchair-bound and cannot get to them and this was perfectly thought out by the people writing this bill Abbet is requesting "election integrity" yet Texas recounts were made and only "16" deficiencies found. These were people who had moved with incorrect addresses; yet those that voted twice which were Republican show no outcry. We wait for Dep AG Patrick to pay Dep AG in Pennsylvania for the fraudulent Republican votes made.

Furthermore cutting down on voting hours from 7 AM to 7 PM will cut down hourly workers that can I get out for one hour lunch and be back in time knowing the lines are so long again it is the lower and middle income Hispanic black and minority workers that are being disenfranchised and affected and this bill is showing how deliberate it is targeting these populations.

I am deeply concerned about the deep division in our country. Gerrymandering and voter suppression continue to be the agenda on the "right". This is increasing in our state with a cultural and political divide worsening by disenfranchising the minority population.

I asked that you do not manipulate and continue suppressing our vote and attempting to support one party or one politician of your choice. Because you did not get the politician of your choice in 2020 you have gone on a rampage attempting to bring up more bills to stop our boat or country now has 253 bills to SUPPRESS our vote. It is obvious Republicans want to return to Jim Crowe's era; this is not hidden. This is unethical and illegal nefarious and discriminatory.

I expect legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against people of color and I expect our elected officials to be loyal to their oath be ethical and represent all Texans.

Thank you for your time

Terence Sumner

self, a precinct chair and long-time election worker and judge

Rowlett, TX

There are numerous vulnerabilities from the registration process to the ballot-issuance process, whether by mail or in person, to the ballot-marking process to the ballot-casting process to the security of transport and handling of marked ballots to the tallying of votes on ballots to the storage of all ballots and election records to the centralized counting and canvassing of ballots, including in-person and mailed-in ballots, in other words at each and every step of the several processes for elections.

Separately I am sending a multi-page document with around 16k words plus graphics in about 35 pages. My hope is that someone will read through and extract the useful suggestions for discussions. I will be out of town during the first public hearing unfortunately. In short, I'd say:

Transparency is good approach to preventing abuse of election systems, such as having 2 witnesses or at least 2 different people, preferably from different political views, to sign off on every stage of the various processes like registration, ballot issuance, and ballot counting. Giving each party a key to access equipment, a password to double-lock electronic equipment, seals and records to track every step of processing when not being directly observed by multiple officials.

NOTE: election workers should never be asked to spot forgeries in any stage of voting, especially when signature are made with a fingertip standing up in front of an electronic display.

NOTE: election workers should never be asked to recognize people by their faces or certify a person as the once in a driver license photo -- none of us is that perceptive.

We just aren't trained to spot fakes, forgeries and disguises, regardless of how many 1-hour training courses we might take on identity.

The concept of turning over both primary and backup electronic memories and all paper balloting records to the exact same person defeats the purpose of a separate audit trail for finding and correcting problems. At least one of the memory devices should be held sealed by a trusted third party apart from the other device, as well as the paper ballots as backups apart from the two electronic devices.

Surely eligibility to vote cannot rely on a database that allows "similar names" to be used without correct, that has no mechanism to verify residence address (since we allow use of passports, CAC cards, EIC cards and other IDs that have no associated address, and that has no method to preclude surreptitious harvesting of mailed-in ballots. Marking ballots out of the sight of election officials can never be as safe as in a polling location, but we can make theft by outsiders harder.

Everybody who has ever used a spreadsheet knows you don't need multi-million dollar software to add a column of figures from several hundred precincts, even when there are five pages of races to track. A pad of paper can do the job.

Reading the ballot numbers by OCR can stop counting the same ballot again and again.

Aaron Breckenridge

Self - programmer

Dallas, TX

There is no evidence of widespread election fraud. Quit wasting our time.

Kelly Haight, Mr.

self - vision plan sales

Sattler, TX

Please protect our democracy by requiring proper identification and stiffer penalties for those committing fraud.

pamela lucas

self

southlake, TX

Seeing what has happened through out the country, this bill is one of the most important. The only way our state and country can survive is though fair and uncorrupted elections. Please vote for HB 6.

thank You

Billie McMahon, RN

My self.

San Angelo, TX

I want this bill passed.

Alan Basinger

Self

Wimberley, TX

In todays Texas there is no reason at all we should be having this discussion.

There are laws on the books that deal with Election fraud, but we seem unable to enforce the laws we already have.

To doubt the honest and fair elections in this State let alone this country is to not have a state or country.

I am proposing we put in advances security systems, RFID chips, Cameras, Biometrics in voting places, including places votes are tallied to watch over the ballots from the time they are first cast all the way to when they are counted.

If for any reason there is an issue with those systems then any and all votes affected should be recast, we should regulate the locations voting and counting can happen.

Voter fraud is such a major crime that it should be treated as such and examples should be made out of any person, business, non profit, lawyer, judge, etc. that corrupts the institution.

This (voter fraud) is akin to treason and should carry the same penalty.

But adding new laws to penalize someone when you cannot enforce current laws is political posturing and is not worth the taxpayers time or money.

Vicki Baiamonte

Self

Mansfield, TX

Announcing my support of passage of this Bill

Theresa Graves, Mrs.

Accts Payable

Houston, TX

I believed in the Election process till 2020. Please uphold the election integrity and let it be a fair and true outcome for both parties.

Mark Consentino, Mr.

Self

Richardson, TX

I vote yes on HB 6 to secure our election integrity in this state of Texas. I support all of it's content and implore the robust and proactive grooming and care of our voter rolls. I'm also in high favor of the punitive actions for violations that this code proposes.

Billie McMahon, RN-retired

Self

San Angelo, TX

I want election boxes to be secure and severe criminal penalties for any fraud.

Pamela Kennedy

Self-Independent Contractor Telecommunications

San Antonio, TX

Please support this bill. While many believe our elections are fair and without fraud, evidence has proven otherwise and until we can prevent any election fraud, our Republic as we know it is in danger of losing Democracy.

Ruth North

Self

Mineola, TX

I have worked as an election volunteer many times. Each experience has left me with a strong awareness that the voters rolls and integrity of our Texas elections are in serious trouble. I have desired to volunteer to help examine and rectify our county voter rolls only to be warned that if I did I would likely face a law suit. That's wrong! If I can't be helpful and volunteer without threats, then it's definitely going to require our Texas legislature to act and enforce our laws. People are saying to me, "why vote when my vote is being canceled out by a dead person or someone voting several times?" Texas voters need YOU to act swiftly and decisively to protect our Texas vote and voter rolls. Thank you for listening and caring and your determination to fix our voter rolls.

Kathleen Hill, Mrs

Self

The Hills, TX

We must Preserve the chain of custody in ballot collection. We must have & keep voter ID. We must HAVE NO MAIL IN BALLOTS. WE SHOULD HAVE 1 WEEK EARLY VOTING. VERY LIMITED ABSENTEE VOTING.

Vikie Schwartz

Self, retired

Boerne, TX

This is the most important issue for me this year. I am willing to work for my candidates, to work to get out the vote, and I always vote, after doing my homework to ensure I am an informed voter. However, I now have serious questions about election integrity and without legislation to protect the integrity of my vote, what is the point? Please restore my confidence in Texas elections - pass this bill.

Dimas Cavazos

Self

Hitchcock, TX

Election Integrity and preservation of the purity of the ballot box should be protected at all costs. We are a 'Free America' and freedom should reign in this great country of ours.

Diane Tschacher

Self, Retired

Austin, TX

Due to the issues surrounding voting integrity I no longer trust the voting systems in the United States of America. If something is not done to insure that the votes of the American Citizens are protected ,rather than those entering the county illegally, there is no point in voting any more. I am too old for the insanity that I have been seeing over that past several decades and want the Constitution of the United States of America and the Pledge of Allegiance to be adhered to.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak out.

Fref Bendall

COS

Chandler, TX

If election integrity is not protected then our country cannot remain free!!

Denise Swanner, Mrs

Self

Odessa, TX

Please support this Bill. We have got to protect our elections. Election Integrity is the most important topic. If we have this bill it will help protect in election fraud in the future

Respectfully,
Denise Swanner

Sharon Loveall

True Texas Project - a grassroots watchdog organization

Fort Worth, TX

Regarding HB6:

Encourages in-person voting, which is more secure

Prohibits public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications

Bans ballot harvesting

Increases poll watcher access (improved transparency)

Provides prosecution teeth for violations

**Need to remove Sec 276.018 (b) which lets election officials alter election code with permission of the Secretary of State (only the legislature should alter election code - not appointed bureaucrats)

This bill is extremely important because the integrity of our elections and our future as the great State of Texas are at stake. The liberal left is trying to make sure that conservatives never have a voice again - and for Texas, as it should be for the nation, this is absolutely unacceptable. We saw the mayhem caused by the 2020 presidential election. We need to clean voter rolls and start acting like Texans AND Americans again. Respectfully, please pass this bill. We need transparency in our voting process and we need to stop ballot harvesting and voting by mail. If you have to show an ID as an illegal immigrant to get free stuff, then you should definitely have to show an ID to vote.

Abram Ogea

Self Clergy

Whitewright, TX

I highly recommend that this bill be passed.

Laura Harris

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please support passage of HB 6 to strengthen the integrity of Texas elections. As a former auditor, I understand the critical importance of record keeping and chain of custody in the process of preventing, identifying and prosecuting election fraud. Combined with stiff penalties, these measures also serve as a strong deterrent. And deterrence is what we need to improve election integrity and to reduce election contests which undermine faith in our elected officials and to prevent candidates who were not truly elected by the people from being placed into offices.

Election integrity is a true no-partisan issue. It affects our Democratic and Republican primaries which in turn affects the ability to nominate strong, honest and ethical candidates.

Please support this bill and strengthen our electoral process.

Eva Graham

Self/Entrepreneur

Fort Worth, TX

I would like to express my support for this bill. I want Texas elections to be more secure going forward as it is important that the outcome of each election truly reflect the will of the people and not the will of those who chose to manipulate the outcome. Texas should be an example to other states on this matter.

Kerri Lacher

self- retired

Dallas, TX

This bill seems to amount to voter suppression. It's obvious. It's egregious. It's unconstitutional. There is no evidence of voter fraud. This fact has been communicated over and over. Please do not support this bill.

Robert Sensabaugh

Texas voters

Arlington, TX

We need to secure Texas elections and do anything we can to stop voting fraud. Every illegal vote robs a legal voter of his say in the election.

Laurie Filipelli

Literary Women in Action

AUSTIN, TX

This comment is in strong OPPOSITION to HB6. Texas is already one of the most difficult states to vote in, and there is no clear evidence that "voter fraud" exists. There is evidence that disenfranchisement, through disastrous bills such as this one, limits the number of people who can safely cast a ballot, without fear. This is clearly not democracy, but a power grab.

Laura Cottam Sajbel

Self

Austin, TX

Decreasing the availability of drop boxes and polling locations and length of time available for voters does not address issues of election security, but of voter suppression. Our state AG already spent tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars to prove that election fraud is nearly non-existent. What does exist is the desire of those in power to stay in power—never the intent of our founders. Elected office is intended to represent the will of the people. So let the people vote. Only those who are afraid their ideas no longer hold sway are trying to limit who can vote. Texas is already poor in voter turnout. Please don't make it worse.

Donald Brorsen

Self

Channelview, TX

I firmly believe that the states and not the federal government should enact any changes in election procedures. The United STATES of America.

Rebecca Gross

SELF - RETIRED

Boerne, TX

To Whom It May Concern:

I am traveling Thursday, March 25, the day this bill will be heard, but I strongly support and urge the passing of HB 6 to protect the integrity of our elections! God save our Republic!

Respectfully,
Rebecca Gross

Jan Henshaw
self / retired teacher
Flint, TX

We have had way too much election fraud in every state - some more than others. We must require voter ID and voting in person with a few exceptions. Penalties should be increased to deter fraud. If there are not adequate consequences, nothing will change. There is already enough skepticism about voting integrity. No voter ID is insanity and so is allowing illegals to vote. Voting should be for citizens only.

April Wheeler
Self caretaker
Odessa, TX

We need election integrity. Stop election fraud and people that do commit it will be penalized

Hilliard Brittain
Self
GARLAND, TX 75044, TX

Make no mistake - election fraud happens in Texas! The provisions and amendments in HB 6 will help clarify what is not acceptable to operate a free and fair election. These changes and additions will, in no way, make it more difficult for any legal voter to make their voice heard at the ballot box. Please vote in favor of this bill. Thank you!

Jacquelyne Miller
Self / Social Media Design
Lake Jackson, TX

Great disappointment in this bill and its creators. This bill is unneed and is an example of big government. Will remember the names of each person who votes for and supports this legislation.

John Rhyne
Self
Angleton, TX

While I support any additional protections of the election process, I am of the opinion that voters in Texas should be required to have in their possession, a valid Texas Driver's license or valid Texas Identity Card to cast their vote in person at the poll. I am also of the opinion that any assistance provided to voters other than instructions on use of the ballot machine is manipulation of

the vote. Any voter arriving to the election poll without knowledge of the candidates and/or any amendments on the ballot are themselves candidates of questionable integrity and can be manipulated by those assisting them. Additionally, I would add the voters throughout this nation are already detached from the political process and if allowed to, they will remain so. As witnessed by the last election, voting by mail provides too many opportunities for the vote to be manipulated if not by family members, friends or organizations under the pretense of doing good. While unpopular, everyone knows that the residents in nursing homes who are many times suffering serious mental debilitation conditions and may be out of touch with reality should not be manipulated by people and organizations to vote with the organizations wishes. While it is unfortunate these nursing home residents and many at home "shut-ins" are being used this way, what is worse is creating laws allowing people and organizations to do so. It is demeaning and manipulative towards our Texas residents who are challenged by age and the medical conditions that accompany age. Many of these nursing home residents have court ordered guardians due to the resident's lack of mental capacity and ability to care for themselves yet the law allows people and organizations to come in and help them vote on important issues. Should it be necessary, I am sure the residents attending physicians can easily certify which of their residents have the cognitive ability to vote. I believe all residents of Texas as a civic duty should vote however, there must be no possibility of mental deficiency allowing anyone to be manipulated. Voting is too important to leave any possibility of fraud and. Other than those serving in the military, all valid votes cast in Texas should be cast in person, at a voting machine, disabled residents included, with the aforementioned photographic identification present.

Billie Bell

Self

Sherman, TX

Texas electronic voting systems: The presence of knowledgeable persons and selected technicians during voting requires use of systems that are impervious to on site or internet manipulation. Electronic voting systems (hardware, cabling, and interfaces) require verification, using metrology techniques, utilizing verified, properly controlled, sealed standards with results of before and after voting/maintenance verification data with hard copy results collected and placed under strict control. When verification is completed, tamper seals must be applied to all voting hardware, cabling and interfaces. Verification of these seals must be performed before and after voting/maintenance. Electronic storage devices must have checksum data recorded, sealed and verified both before and after transport. Electronic voting systems using programmable interfaces are vulnerable to manipulation. These systems allow changing of firmware control over data and must not be used. Background: I am an electronics engineering technologist with 48 years of experience. My experience with metrology for over 44 years is the basis for these safeguards. All calibrated systems require verification to controlled standards with tamper seals intact, so all voting systems require verification to controlled standards with tamper seals intact. Another simple solution: paper ballots!

Melinda White

self/teacher

Azle, TX

I support this bill as in-person voting should be a standard; mail-in ballots should be the exception and restricted. Voter ID and signature verification should be required, always.

Teresa Killebrew, Mrs.

Self

Grapevine, TX

I strongly support any and all tools used to protect our voice at the ballot box.

Bill Thoreson

Self; Retired

Dallas, TX

Providing incentives for the ethically challenged is always a good thing and clearly needed in this area. Hopefully, once people start going to jail, election confidence will improve.

JoAnne Hess, Mrs

Republican

Watauga, TX

I am all for preserving each and every vote made by a registered voter (citizen) There should be very stringent penalties for tampering with any ballot in voting process!

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. Well-written to protect election workers as well as define election worker crime and penalties. Also, I appreciate the additional requirements to keep our voter rolls more accurate. HOWEVER, the following may belong in this bill as well (perhaps under Sec. 276.015): Once a request for an application to vote by mail is received in the Clerk's office, a signature verification must be made against the voter registration card on file to ensure that the signature of the person requesting an application is actually the person who is registered to vote. I have worked on the Ballot Board for some time, and signature verifications are made using the carrier envelope signature against the application to vote by mail signature (not the [original] voter registration card signature). This allows a fraudulent person to request a mail-in ballot, under their own signature, and sign the carrier envelope, with their own signature. Ballot Board signature verifications will then match. And, even if IDs are required for an application to vote by mail, who is to know if they are copying perhaps a disabled person's ID to request the ballot and then to get the ballot through (e.g., nursing home type fraud)? Proper signature verifications must occur at the request level so that mail-in ballots are not mailed out to frauds - and that fraud is caught at the beginning of the voting process. Thank you.

Teresa Campbell

Precinct 4113 Republican members and self and spouse

Fort Worth, TX

My neighbors and I are strongly support HB 6. We need to also add a requirement for voter ID for all mail-in (absentee) ballots and make certain that our voter rolls are accurate and maintained and corrected every year.

We are also in full support of HB 7 by Sen Bettencourt and hope to add the two improvements mentioned. Election integrity is the number one priority of the Texas Republican Party and we demand that strong measures be taken this legislative session. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Karen Earhart

Self

Pleasanton, TX

Voting is one of the most important things a citizen can do! Insuring the integrity of any and all elections is the responsibility of the State Legislatures. I encourage passing HB6 and any new legislation that helps to guard against any fraudulent outcomes!

Jeff Bryant

Self

Amarillo, TX

I am in support of HB6. Please support this Bill.

Eric Varnado

Self

Pearland, TX

I fully support HB6 Mr. Cain and this bill inorder to preserve our election integrity. Without election integrity or votes or meaningless.

Anthony Perry

Self

Kaufman, TX

As a citizen of The Greatest State of Texas, I ABSOLUTELY support legislation to preserve and protect what must be one of, if not the single most important right as an American, and that is our right to vote, and have a FREELAND FAIR election process. I think we have all seen what can happen when the integrity of an election fails. For those who are not paying attention, you the communist regime trying to pass the ridiculousness that is HB 1, as well as destroy our beloved constitution. In my lifetime, I have seen this country from the perspective that as goes Texas, typically, so goes the United States. Let us continue to be the "shining beacon and lead these Untied States of America, back to being the United States of America. No, that was not a misprint. God Bless Texas, and God Bless the United States.

Wendy Kalthoff

Not Employed

Austin, TX

I am against House bill 6 as I belive everyone should have the right to vote.

Frank Cadena, Mr.

Self

Helotes, TX

I support HB6, we need to uphold and prevent fraud related to elections and insure integrity in our ballot boxes.

Marianne Roberts

Self

Lone Oak, TX

Election integrity already exists and, as proven by the last election, does not need to be "purified" from fraud. These accusations against our election security only embolden America's enemies and furthers their campaigns to undermine America. Please stop this voting sham.

Susan Evans

Self

Weatherford, TX

We need our elections kept honest no mail in ballots so they will have less fraud.

Lark Consentino, Mrs

Self - Medical professional

Richardson, TX

Please protect the integrity of our elections! So many people are losing faith in our election process. Do the right thing

Kathy Powell, Business Owner

Self

San Marcos, TX

Hello! I'd like to encourage you to vote in favor of HB6. As we all know voting integrity and reliability is a top priority to all Americans. Please vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for investing your time and serving the public.

Renda Schuelke

Self

Purdon, TX

Please pass this bill so that our election process will remain fair. I would like to know when I vote that my vote will not be overridden by falsely filed votes. That elections will be overseen fairly by all parties.

Robert Nunmaker

Self / Retired

Missouri City, TX

I've read this bill and support its passage.

Jonathan Klekman

Self

Austin, TX

Thanks so much for taking the time to read my public comments about this bill. I do not believe based on the evidence that has

been collected over the last two election cycles that there is evidence of substantiated voter fraud in Texas. I happen to know that there are folks who have trouble accessing polls due to administrative burden put on them do to access to technology, access to transportation to the polls and schedules. The options that are currently available to voters in Texas need to go even further towards making it LESS complicated for folks to get on voter rolls and polls mailed in. It is for this reason and my believe that in a democracy we should be aiming to make it easier for folks to vote, to have representative government that takes into account the voices of folks from across the spectrum of age or social status. Without any statistically provable examples of voter fraud, I believe we should not be going in this direction. I strongly encourage folks in the House to vote against this bill.

Jeanne Gabel

COS

Canyon, TX

Please keep the integrity of our elections, otherwise freedom will be lost!! Please pass HB 6

Gayland Taylor, Owner

25X's H.O.P.E

Mansfield, TX

I am very concerned about this Bill. It sounds like another way of suppressing the votes.

Denise Winckler

Self - Accounts Payable Associate

Anderson, TX

We need to pass legislation strengthening our voter laws by abolishing Ballot Harvesting and making it mandatory to clean up voter rolls at a miniumum every 2 years, preferable every year. There should never be Mail in Voting allowed under any circumstance. Absolutely no ballots should be mass mailed. No absentee ballot gets mailed without a request from the Voter, voter id needs to always be required and signatures should match. It also needs to state emphatically that only the Texas Legislature has the right to change any voter laws. Under no circumstances should any individual or office make changes. It can only be the Texas Legislature. No changes can be made 6 months prior to any Statewide or Federal election. We have all seen voter fraud in many states including Texas. Our elections are the only voice the people of Texas have. That is why this is imperative. Thank-you.

Jonathan King, Rev.

Self/Retired

Cibolo, TX

Please vote to support this bill. We need to do everything possible to ensure the integrity of our election process here in Texas and make certain the federal government cannot weaken or destroy that process.

Betty Crooks

Self

Kerrville, TX

My Government has forgotten its place. Rigged elections through unregulated actions are NOT the will of we the people. Step up and stop the madness. Insure a fair election As intended by the Constitution.

Jessie Carlson

Self Hemp producer

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes! There is no reason the dead should be on the rolls as long as they currently are.

Jon Williams, Mr

Self , Retired HVAC Tech.

Harlingen, TX

I believe this much need bill will help insure the transparency of our futures elections ! All Texas voters want their votes to count in a fair and Unbiased Election!

Americans can not ever question the legitimate Elections from the Great State of Texas with this safe guard in place!

Karen Sieczkowski, Mrs

Self. IBM Engineering Project Mgr

Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly support any bills especially this one which support increasing election integrity and removing as many opportunities for fraud in the election process as possible. Voter ID along with paper ballots would be the ideal solution to our many problems. Also a single voting day where the vast majority of people vote and keeping early voting to a minimum. Absentee voting should be kept to an absolute minimum with cause and verification required.

Everyone should be FOR improving election integrity for the sake of preserving our nation.

Emily Fallis, Dr.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please do NOT support further measures to prohibit or make more difficult voting in person and by mail. Texas should be make voting EASIER not HARDER.

Emilie Olivares, Mrs.

self, retired public school employee

Corpus Christi, TX

Our government is a representative democracy. Our government is not a government of the wealthy only. It is a government Of the People, By the People, and For the People. In a representative democracy such as ours, the vote of the people is their voice. We, the citizens of our state and our country, should have the ability to freely vote, as our vote is both our right and our responsibility. Any attempt to restrict the right of the People is an attempt to corrupt our government, to give more weight to the vote of a certain faction of our People. The voting rights of working people, or persons with physical disabilities, or persons who

are called minorities because of their names or skin color, should not be restricted. Texas has been one of the most difficult states to vote in. We need to change that, to truly be the nation we claim to be. Please do not restrict our right to vote by mail. Please make sure that persons who have been disenfranchised for having broken the law, but who have served time or have otherwise paid their debt to society, may be cleared immediately and allowed to regain their citizenship right to vote.

Madisen Riley

Self, Writer

Pflugerville, TX

There is no documented evidence of voter fraud in Texas despite thousand of tax payer dollars and hundreds of hours of wasted investigatory time at the Attorney General's office. This bill does not make me or my family feel better about election security or more confident in our democratic processes in Texas. In fact, the reality that the proposed changes to our voting processes will disproportionately effect counties with large communities of Black, Asian and Latinx residence makes me believe that these bills appear to offer democracy only to those whose beliefs and appearances fall in line with white, conservative ideologies in Texas. This bill is not a reflection of the will of the majority of Texans.

Jason Southerland

Self - citizen of Texas

Waxahachie, TX

Election integrity is of utmost importance and without it, our very form of government, our Constitutional Republic, is in danger. If the citizens of Texas lose our voice - when elections can be stolen, then the people are left in hopelessness that they have no proper recourse - no legitimate way to express our voice in our own governance. I support this bill as I believe it will provide substantial protections for fair elections - a key pillar of our Republic. Thank you for protecting our form of government with this bill.

Cathy Murphree

self

Richardson, TX

I'm writing as an independent. I'm 68 and voted Republican until 2016. To be honest, I don't even recognize the party. The party I supported for 40 years supported free trade, fiscal responsibility, and welcoming immigration policies to reenergize our economy. It was the party of science and reason and education. These no longer describe the Republican party. But the latest heartache is this clear effort at making voting more difficult and introducing policies that will particularly be cumbersome for those who don't have the resources and flexibility I have. I frankly cannot believe that ANY serious political party is doing this, and the false statements of doing this for "security" are offensive and insulting. So I oppose HB 6. I will also say that this strategy of not trying to expand the party's base and instead suppressing voting is being seen by all for what it is--I predict it will lead to a decline for the party, and that will be deserved.

Cathy Murphree

Rebecca Rodgers

Self

ARLINGTON, TX

Our nation is under attack! It is apparent to me that if we don't fix our election laws, elections will no longer have integrity. As it stands, I have lost all faith, in our 3 branches of government, and really unsure if I will ever have faith in our voting system again.

It is evident that radical changes must occur to ensure future election integrity. I am writing to request that you support SB7 I would like to encourage in-person voting only, as it is more secure. Voting really needs to be paper-based and not electronically based, since electronic voting machines can be easily manipulated. Public Officials need to be prohibited from distributing un-requested vote-by-mail applications, this would eliminate conflict of interest. I would also like to see increase poll watcher access to improve transparency. There also needs to be a cap on public funding of election officials and government agencies. I believe these changes are a start in helping to secure future elections. There are other avenues we need to take, but we have to start somewhere. Thank you for working to secure our elections.

Billie Bell

Self

Sherman, TX

Texas electronic voting systems utilize screen registration and counters. They require calibration. Electronic voting systems (hardware, cabling, and interfaces) require verification, using metrology techniques. Voting system accuracy must be verified using properly controlled procedures and standards. Before and after verification data results and system logs must be documented and controlled. When verification is completed, tamper seals must be applied to all voting hardware, cabling and interfaces. If maintenance is performed, the voting system accuracy must be verified, sealed, documented and controlled. Verification of calibration seals must be performed before and after voting/maintenance. The system must log changes to the system with event, date/time and specific authorization identification.

The presence of knowledgeable persons and selected technicians during voting requires use of systems that are impervious to on site or internet manipulation. Electronic voting systems using programmable interfaces are vulnerable to manipulation. These systems allow changing of firmware control over data and must not be used. Background: I am an electronics engineering technologist with 48 years of experience. My experience with metrology for over 44 years is the basis for these safeguards. All calibrated systems require verification to controlled standards using tamper seals and event logging, so all voting systems require verification to controlled standards using tamper seals and event logging.

Electronic storage devices must have checksum data recorded, controlled, sealed and verified both before and after transport.

Another, simple solution: use paper ballots!

Whitney McGinness

Self, stay at home mom

Corpus Christi, TX

Protect our right to vote!!!!!!!!!!

Alexandra Stallings, RN

Self

Converse, TX

It is so obvious the 2020 election was stolen and citizens can see the corruption of the Biden Administration. We need to secure our elections from any possible fraud with Dominion, unsecured software, mail-in ballots, illegal voters etc. Please address these issues so that 2022 election will be honest and so that we may fix the problems with the 2020 election as well. Texas had suspicious areas that need to be looked into. Red counties that suddenly flipped blue. These irregularities need to be corrected so that we can move forward. Thank you. Alexandra Stallings

Charles Walton

Self

N. Richland Hills, TX

In light of the events that took place during the 2020 election it is imperative that the State of Texas takes every measure possible to ensure that election fraud is not only made as difficult to commit but must carry the most stringent penalties available under the law.

Our right to vote should be sacrosanct and defended by the rule of law. This legislation should be placed at the highest level of priority of this legislature's attention. The U.S. Congress is attempting to nationalize elections in direct violation of the Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution via HR 1. If every state within the Union does not take proactive actions like HB 6 to protect and preserve the Constitution our Representative Republic will cease to exist.

Helene Berger

Self

Fort worth, TX

I want this bill to pass please

Danny Ward

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I support HB 6. We need to protect our elections from fraud. This bill is definitely needed to protect the purity of our elections. Without the protection of our elections there is no point in having elections. We need to also protect voter confidence in elections. Without HB 6 many of us will have no confidence in the election process. That's why I support HB 6.

Terry Casparis

Blanco County Democratic Party

Johnson City, TX

I am the Chairman of the Blanco County Democratic Party. I have served during two Primaries, two General Elections, and one Constitutional election. Blanco County is a majority Republican County and I'm proud to say that both parties in Blanco County have worked together effectively to conduct open, fair, and well-managed elections. I have gained the utmost respect for county election officials and volunteer judges, alternate judges, election clerks, and poll watchers. It is my experience that those who volunteer to serve as election workers do so out of a desire to serve the democratic process and to do so with the integrity. I find the overall tone and intent of HB6 to be counter to that sense of self-integrity and respect for democracy. This bill casts aspersions (perhaps unintended) on the honor of the people who serve as election officials or as election volunteers. I have the following objections:

1. Section 3.01 regarding Poll watchers eliminates the ability of a Precinct Judge or County Election Official to properly address inappropriate behavior of watchers. This section could allow disruption to affect critical election processes. The work of the volunteers in the polling places and Ballot Board requires attention to detail, knowledge, complex election procedures, and a calm and respectful demeanor. Given that there is no stated limit on the number of Poll Watchers that may be present and that, under HB6, watchers may be dismissed only for outright fraud, the door is left open to behavior that is disruptive, invasive, and perhaps intended to confuse or delay election processes. I submit that elected officials and duly certified Election Judges be given authority to dismiss watchers who abuse their appointed position and to protect the ability of election workers to do their jobs and for citizens to vote in a respectful and peaceful manner.

2. Section 5.95 regarding solicitations to vote by mail is an unnecessary and unwarranted restriction on efforts by honorable institutions including the Republican Party and the Democratic Party and candidates to provide registered voters with the information needed to fulfill their right to vote. My county has a disproportionately high number of older citizens. Many cannot vote in person and others prefer not to due to health or as a matter of convenience. I believe it is our responsibility to provide every voter the right to vote by mail if that is their preference. There is no substantiated evidence of material amounts vote by mail fraud in Texas. Voting in Texas is already challenging. During election cycles a significant portion of my time is spent answering questions from voters about various details of the law regarding how, when, and where to vote. Many cannot recall if they applied to receive vote by mail ballot or have never done so before and require guidance. If we truly believe in the will of the people and the importance of voting, we allow voting by mail to be common and easy.

Mark Haynes

Self, retired

North Richland Hills, TX

I strongly support this HB 6 bill for numerous reasons:

- It encourages in-person voting which results in a more secure election
- It prohibits public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications and bans the corrupt practice of ballot harvesting
- It increases poll watcher access and therefore improves election transparency
- It provides more authority for prosecution of violations

I would also recommend some changes to the bill including:

- the need to remove Sec 276.018 (b) which lets election officials alter election code with permission of the Secretary of State (only the legislature should alter election code - not appointed bureaucrats)
- requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Please support HB 6 and provide more security in our future elections.

Mark Haynes

Sylvia Campbell

self

The Woodlands, TX

This bill is just a reflection of President Trump's "big lie," The bill chases problems that are not there. And in so doing, it makes voting harder for the citizens of the state of Texas. Texans deserve better. Let's make voting more accessible! Vote NO on HB 6.

Sylvia Coulson

Self Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. We must have confidence in the accuracy and integrity of our elections.. WE need to clean up the voter rolls and mKe sure every legal vote counts.

Jayne Burkhart

Self

Katy, TX

Imperative that we enact these measures to strengthen and protect our sacred election process!

Bob Richardson

self, retired

Castell, TX

This is most important, not only for Texas...but for the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Rhonda Belt Rhea

self/retired

Bellaire, TX

HB6 is an embarrassment to residents of Texas. It is an assault on voting rights. Texans voted in record numbers in 2020. It is indecipherable that there are people, especially elected officials trying to make it harder for Texans to vote. The members who are supporting HB6 want to prevent working people, younger people and our beloved senior citizens from voting. How dare you try to sustain such ugliness in Texas. Leave that elsewhere. In Texas, we have learned better. We do better here! Without reservation, I do not support HB6 or its companion Bill in the Texas Senate.

I sincerely believe that it is this kind of ugliness and hate-mongering that led to the insurrectionist attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. We must take our lessons from that attack and not repeat those mistakes in Texas. We are leaders. We are not followers. We must have leaders who will look us in the face and tell us the whole truth, even when it hurts. Our leaders must not look us in the eyes with their fingers crossed that we close our eyes, shut our mouths and believe their fantasy stories and play make believe.

There seems to be a concerted effort and planned strategy by Ken Paxton, the elected Texas Attorney General (and others of his Party) to build barriers to exercising our right to vote in Texas. They talk as if they don't want residents to have convenient ways to vote. They behave as if they don't want residents to have easy ways to register to vote. They behave as if they don't want Texans to have multiple opportunities to cast their one vote. They don't want every eligible Texan to vote unless they can tell us who we must choose. If passed HB-6 is one step toward these evil, misdirected actions to take place.

This Bill increases the crimes for which the Attorney General is authorized to investigate and prosecute. HB-6 is so broad it may inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from distributing voting resources, including mail ballot applications. During the previous campaign season both major political parties mailed these applications to their registered voters. Under this legislation, this activity could be criminal. Such action may leave vulnerable seniors and voters, who have disabilities, with fewer options to request and receive a mail-in ballot (absentee ballot). This form of oppression of the residents of Texas must be stopped.

Without reservation, I do not support HB6 or its companion Bill in the Texas Senate.

Kenneth Chivington

Self / Missionary

Mission, TX

It amazes me that I need to write this but here goes. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know all voters are to be current valid identifiable citizens of the United States of America AND that we all must be required to have a valid ID. Stop election fraud at

and in any avenues. You know and I know that we can 100% stop election fraud. That is not the problem. The problem is many DO NOT WANT to stop election fraud.

Minda Hust

Self

Granbury, TX

I am for passing this bill to protect the election integrity in the state of Texas. Voter rolls should be constantly updated, IDs should be required, and mass mail in voting should not be allowed. Only the Texas state legislature should control the voting laws in Texas. There should never be one political leader that decides on voting laws.

Vicki Tallman

Self retired

Hughes Springs, TX

Texas should maintain its current voting laws, and not adopt any that would allow fraudulent voting.

Venus Wilder

Self Retired

Dripping Springs, TX

As a proud Texas citizen and voter, I demand complete voter integrity. We have been asleep at the wheel, and have allowed voting fraud to creep into our great state. Given the events of the 2020 election, it is imperative that we have complete voting transparency and integrity in the voting process. In addition, we must never allow the federal government to dictate our voting policies, as that is a right given to the states by our Constitution. Texas always leads the nation in innovation. It is time for us to show the rest of America how real voting integrity is done. Please support this HB6.

Susan Valliant

Convention of States

Arlington, TX

I support HB6. Washington DC is working tirelessly to mute our voices especially with HB1 passing Congress. We are a Republic where the people are the arbiters of our Government and without Election Integrity We the People will not matter because our votes won't matter. As an American citizen and Texan we deserve free and fair elections. I ask that you support and vote yes on HB6.

Tracy Mortensen, Mrs

Self

Pflugerville, TX

The 2020 election was secure. The BIG lie supported by Trump was based on something Sidney Powell has admitted under oath was not true. There's little fraud in elections! Expanding voting rights is what we need. Stop restricting voting rights!

Carol Woodworth

Self/Retired

Keller, TX

I support HB6 which will increase election integrity by minimizing the many opportunities for fraud. I support the requirement to show id both at the polls when voting and for those few people who need to mail in a ballot. Lastly, I support a requirement for election officials to maintain accurate voter lists. We should never find out that non-citizens, dead people and those who have moved from the state have voted in any election in Texas.

Scott Walston

Self

Uvalde, TX

Election fraud has been rampant in some parts of Texas. We need to have only lawful voters who have been vetted to vote in our elections. Voter ID is one effective way to protect the integrity of our voting system. Mail in voting ballots must have a method to verify it's validity. Please take solid action to protect our state from more fraudulent voting by illegal persons.

Jackie Moore

Self

Rockwall, TX

I support this bill

Scott Sheaffer

Self, Engineer

Denison, TX

The issue of election integrity might be the most important issue facing both the US and Texas at this time. Elections must be fair. Controls MUST be put in place to mitigate the well funded and organized efforts to corrupt them. Our republic is in dire jeopardy if strict controls prohibiting voter fraud are not adhered to and extreme penalties for violations are not followed through. Corrupted elections immediately precede fallen nations and fallen states - We demand protection from corruption of our elections and demand HB 6 be but one step toward focused effort to bring relief to this clear and present danger.

Ana Mac Naught

Sefl

Houston, TX

HB 6 will harm voters, restrict ballot access, and silence the voices of Texas' eligible rising electorate. It is your duty as representatives of the people to increase access to voting, not limit it. As a voting resident of Harris County, I appreciated having access to drive thru voting and different hours, especially during the pandemic and with two children.

Kathleen Crea

Texas Women for Justice

The Woodlands, TX

Mail in ballots by registered voters should not be tampered with in any way

Wendy Mae

Self

McKinney, TX

Secure our elections!

Judi Schultz

Self

Alba, TX

I ask that you restore the confidence in our most important right as a citizen of Texas and the United States. The right to VOTE and have it protected and correctly tallied. Each and every single polling place should conduct itself in similar manner so as to insure each vote and every citizen has the same measure of confidence that his or her vote has the same import.

Our last two elections were shameful; like the Chicago mob! Please vote to purify and protect the process; making stronger fraud penalties; creating criminal offenses.

Paige Kramer

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please ensure that are elections have integrity and can be conducted w/o interference. We as a state need to lead the way in ensuring that this occurs

Dawn Bolton

Self

Richardson, TX

To whom it may concern. I am requesting and strongly urging legislators to pass this very important bill to preserve election integrity. I support election integrity, who wouldn't. The citizens of Texas have to believe and trust the purity of elections at the ballot box, or what would be the point, they will not bother to vote. The system is ripe with the possibility of fraud and now is the time to fortify our election process in Texas. Please consider my request to pass this important bill, the time is NOW.

Regards.

Dawn Bolton

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

Protecting the vote is a primary function of Government. Ken Paxton completed an accounting of our vote and LITERALLY found voter fraud to be LESS than 1 in a million. That tells me Texas is doing MORE THAN ENOUGH to protect the vote. Our

problem is access. My Dad has COPD, LUNG CANCER, MESOTHELIOMA, ASBESTOSIS AND SILICOSIS. Despite requesting his mail in ballot early, he received it the DAY before voting closed. Since he was unable to mail it, he had to deliver it in person. NOT TO A DROP BOX, but dragging his oxygen and ID in a crowded building, during a pandemic with ALL the preexisting conditions. We are not unaware in RURAL TEXAS. We are informed and paying attention and VOTER FRAUD IS NOT AN ISSUE. Now, suing other states to violate THEIR STATE'S RIGHTS? Only Ken and Texas would pull that. Texas has made a mockery of it's citizens and represented us WITH ZERO THOUGHT ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS. Stop protecting yourselves and start doing the work. When did y'all forget the "PUBLIC SERVANT" part of your job? LET TEXAN'S VOTE.

Deborah Leiber
self / retired attorney
The Woodlands, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill! There was not a finding of fraud in the past election. It is important to expand voting NOT pass voter suppression laws! I am opposed to the section of the bill that would limit the ability of election workers to protect voters against illegal disruption and harassment by watchers. I also disagree with the limitation of the distribution of mail-in vote applications.

Cynthia Caton
self, teacher
Richardson, TX

I would like to ask you to ADD Voter ID being required and signature verification to EVERY mail-in or absentee ballot allowed. I would ask that there are fewer reasons for mail-in voting allowed, AND I would ask for more regular maintenance of the voter rolls to be done.

Our elections are our future. If we have to have an ID to enter our local library, then WHY the HECK don't we have to have one to VOTE. If our president is specifying ID and background checks to get a gun, WHY NOT background checks to verify voting rights?

ADD more meat to this bill and make it MEAN something!

Sherri Duchin
Self
Spring, TX

I oppose Hb 6. It is one of the bills that would make it more difficult for people to vote and is part of the voter suppression efforts being made in the legislature.

Donnelle Storrs, DNP, FNP
self nurse practitioner
San Antonio, TX

I am against HB 6. It is voter suppression. Our elections have proven to already have integrity with purity of the ballot box. There is no need to add a new bill.

Jennifer Margulies

Self

AUSTIN, TX

This bill would have truly Jim Crow-style consequences of restricting access to the ballot. It is a solution in search of a problem, and will have unacceptable results of keeping eligible Texans away from voting. This kind of legislation will intimidate volunteers and voters alike from legitimate activity necessary to the health of free and fair elections. I strongly urge a no vote on this bill. Access to ballot should be a non-partisan issue. Voters will remember who the politicians were who tried to take away our rights.

DeeAnn Foley, Mrs.

Self

Kerrville, TX

Dear Senator Buckingham,

Please consider passing HB6 relating to election integrity. I feel that this is important to protect Texas from federal actions.

Thanks, DeeAnn Foley

DeeAnn Foley, Mrs.

Self

Kerrville, TX

Dear Representative Murr,

Please vote to pass HB 6 relating to election integrity in Texas. I feel it is important to protect Texas from federal action.

Thanks, DeeAnn Foley

Bruce Hodge

Self

Harlingen, TX

Can anybody show me concrete evidence of voter fraud in Texas? Why must we suffer yet another voter suppression bill, one designed to gratify those who wish to keep “other people” from voting, and disenfranchise “all” the citizens of our state? Enough of this foolishness. Vote “no” on the passage of any bill that makes it harder for some people to vote. It is time for the Republican Party (GOP of T) to come up with some ideas rather than useless disingenuous clickbait for those that rise to the politics of division that is a plague on our State and the Country.

Lynn Haueter

Self

78003, TX

Hello and thank you for serving the great state of Texas. Please support HB6. I am a long time elections volunteer. I've served as a poll worker in two states, I've also volunteered on a recount. I have talked with multiple elections administrators/clerks over the years who have candidly shared their concerns with absentee mail-in ballots. They consistently say that mail ballots are the #1 way criminals can commit voter fraud. One of the more heinous ways they do this is by collecting the absentee ballots for the

elderly and offering to "help them" mark their ballot. Many elderly, especially in nursing homes, without family nearby allow non-family to mark their ballot. Since many of the elderly cannot see well and some have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia or some sort of cognitive decline, they are totally at the mercy of the person marking the ballot. They may not know how their ballot is marked. My own grandmother is 106 and would not be able to see her ballot or how it was marked. If myself or another family member cannot assist her, I do not want a stranger assisting her. I am 100% against ballot harvesting of any kind. I believe absentee ballots should only be handled by the voter who it belongs to with the very rare exception of a family member helping the voter. There should be large fines and it should be a felony when anyone is found marking a ballot that does not belong to them. I also believe every mail ballot should have a specific identifier on it so as to ensure the actual voter whom that ballot belongs to is the sole person casting that ballot. There are many other ways mail ballots are used fraudulently. Ideally we should have a strong laws which incentivize in person voting.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

I SUPPORT this Bill and I request your SUPPORT also! We learned from the 2020 Presidential Election that these are areas that were abused and need to be changed. We must make sure that what happened in 2020 does not happen again!

Michelle Reinhardt

self

Austin, TX

This is a terrible bill that will restrict voting access to the most vulnerable Texans. I would encourage committee members to vote in opposition to this bill.

Allison Gower

Self - Business Owner

Houston, TX

The bill is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications. In 2020, the Texas Democratic Party mailed 1 million Texas senior citizens applications for vote by mail to help them vote safely during the pandemic -- and the Trump campaign sent these applications to their voters, too. Sending mail ballot applications is a key way to help Texans vote - it broadens access. Banning local election officials from proactively sending these applications to voters, will leave seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot. This bill also makes it easier to target the Black community in an effort to prosecute people for voting mistakes and confusion by adding many other items to the list of crimes that the AG is authorized to investigate and prosecute Black and Brown folks for. While in the rest of the world, we're acknowledging how our criminal justice system has unfairly targeted communities of color and over-criminalization is not the answer, Rep. Cain wants to move us in the opposite direction. As a resident of Harris County I strongly endorse the expansion of voting hours (early and late so working people can access the polls) and early voting time (to reduce lines for safety sake and accessibility) and this bill essentially allows the State to prohibit all such expansion and accessibility improvement. A democracy means that everyone votes and this bill makes it harder for people to vote, which severely undercuts democratic functions. Additionally, local election officials should be able to set policies that work for the local community. Texas is a big state and it is impossible to design policies that work everywhere in the state in every community. This bill will make it impossible for local officials to best support their communities.

Sharon Yarbrough

Self, school administration

Austin, TX

There is no election fraud and this bill is a waste of our time and money.

Andy Liao

Self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Georgia Keysor

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Georgia Keysor, I live in Austin, 78757. Because I take voting seriously, I urge you to vote against HB 6 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. I'm proud of my part in the democratic process and I know that fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. HB 6 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. It also makes voters feel less safe by allowing recordings and picture taking in polling places.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and increased voter turnout despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible. Please reject this unwarranted attack on our voting rights. Thank you for your time today.

Julie Gilberg

Self- Graphic Design

Austin, TX

Oppose.

Garry Sisco

self/retired

Temple, TX

This legislation is completely unnecessary. In the current climate, some will argue that certain proposed gun legislation targets law abiding citizens who just happen to like guns. I am actually sensitive to that argument as I prefer legislation that targets specific individuals with certain histories. This voter legislation is similarly harmful. The allegations of voter fraud, "dead voters", and stolen elections have been shown to mythical, at best. The much ballyhooed voter commission of 2017 was abandoned. Other similar searches for voter fraud have found nothing of substance to justify the hype surrounding them. Actual voter fraud is extremely rare and most allegations are false or simply cases of voter and/or administrative error. A certain high profile stolen election proponent has recently admitted no factual basis for the allegation of machines switching votes. No, this

legislation is not at all about the integrity of our elections. This is about trimming turn out at the edges. The party in power in Texas believes that making the voting process easier helps people vote who mostly do not vote for them. Some years ago, this party valued ideas and branded itself the party of ideas and believed it could win elections and attract voters with their ideas. At one point even declaring they could attain a permanent majority. They have been proven to have few ideas and mostly win elections when they can frightened broad swaths of the electorate with some impending menace, one often as real as your pet unicorn.

This is not about election integrity, not even a little bit, it is about limiting access to the polls of folks who tend to vote Democratic!

Erika Nowlin

self, Nonprofit Executive Director

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Amy Hufford

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not try to fix a system that is not broken. There is no evidence of fraud! Texans want you to focus on real problems like our electric grid, not on making it harder for people to vote.

Judith Neal

Self

Plano, TX

I am asking that you all support and vote to approve HB6. Coming from a state, California, where voter fraud is an everyday occurrence and I worked as a poll watcher on many elections and can attest to it being real. Vote by mail should only be allowed for those unable to vote in person do to medical disability. Protect the integrity of our vote but approving this bill and its safe guards.

Terri Koen

Self, yoga teacher

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. As a volunteer deputy registrar in Travis County, I see firsthand how difficult it is for voters to engage in the voting process. There has NOT been widespread fraud, and these measures would only disenfranchise voters.

Marlow Newton

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I fully support HB 6. I truly appreciate increasing all the penalties to being felonies, to deter individuals and groups from attempting these specific fraudulent activities cited in this bill. As a Texas resident, I truly appreciate bolstering our election integrity legal language so that Texas can be a standard for other states in how we conduct honest elections. These specific areas are critical, as even in this last election, there were individuals caught doing ballot harvesting.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Marlow Newton

Melanie Haupt

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 6. It unduly affect voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Voting is a right, not a privilege, and Texas should work to expand access to the vote, rather than restrict it.

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Mary Patrick, Ms.

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

Before voting on HB 6, the people of Texas request that the authors et al., of this bill present solid evidence of voter fraud in Texas: dates, how many cases of proven voter fraud, where the fraud occurred, who committed the fraud and the penalties imposed on the guilty parties.

Keely Bostick

Volunteer Voter Deputy Registrar

Austin, TX

As someone who has worked to ensure voter participation I feel strongly that we preserve early voting time frames and hours. We must not limit or infringe the ability of people to vote easily. There is no wide spread voting fraud and yet there are continuing efforts to fix a problem that doesn't exist. The right to vote is fundamental and it should be easy and convenient to use.

Kelly Crighton

Self, landlord

Magnolia, TX

Voter access must be expanded, NOT restricted! Early voting is important to my family. How dare you attempt to restrict our God-given rights! Early voting, curbside voting, vote by mail, all these things are important to working Texans, Texans with disabilities, elderly Texans--it is your job to protect our ability to vote, especially during a pandemic! It is unpatriotic and unAmerican to try and stop us from voting. Vote against this travesty of a bill.

Lizette Resendez

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this.

Karen Cox

Blue Action Democrats SW Austin

Austin, TX

This bill is designed ONLY to prevent Black people from voting. There is NO EVIDENCE AT ALL of massive voter fraud. NONE. This bill is unworthy of the diverse and modern state that Texas is. Anyone who supports this blight is a worthless racist.

Lizette Resendez

Self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail

Nathalie Steinfeld Childre

Concerned voter

Austin, TX

We don't need more voter restrictions. It's unbelievable how hard some politicians try to suppress the vote. This bill is the result of fear mongering from the outgoing former president because he couldn't admit that he lost. Now republicans politicians are trying to sooth their voter base by acting on behalf of the former presidents lies and wrongful allocation. All of the allegations have been exposed as wrong in court!

Pamela Slocomb

self

Spring, TX

Vote No on HB 6

Dana Azurin

self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

Last November, I was a poll worker and had to turn away many voters due to registration issues. We should be making it easier for people to participate in the voting process, a fundamental American constitutional right.

HB 6 & SB 7 proposals unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust. SB 7 and HB 6 and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted. We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills. I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Tina Fernandez

Self

Temple, TX

I am 55 years old and have voted by mail since I moved here in 2012. I suffer from Huntington's Chorea and a panic disorder. Absentee voting is the only way I can make my voice be heard, you have no right to punish me or try to silence me just because you Republicans can't win elections without cheating. I have a right to vote and I look forward to voting by mail because that's the only way I can be heard. Please don't punish people with disabilities or take away our right to vote. Please stop attacking voter rights, y'all have no reason whatsoever, you're attacking our rights because of a big lie. Please don't take away our voices and rights. Thank you.

Gregg Vunderink

self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to voting, on-line voter registration, expanded voting hours, longer early voting hours, and no -excuse vote by mail.

Tim Shinogle

Self

Arlington, TX

Honorable House Members,

The 2020 election process has been shown to be fraught with voting integrity issues. Unfortunately, the courts throughout the United States, including the U.S. Supreme Court, were unwilling to address any of the lawsuits. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our state legislatures to correctly address and enact legislation to ensure that only legal U.S. citizens vote and that the entire voting systems and processes eliminate fraudulent voting and collection of ballots. I am in favor of HB6 and urge you to vote in favor.

Elizabeth Erbezniak

self - educator

Austin, TX

I am AGAINST HB6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanding voting hours and

longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail. HB6 is repackaged Jim Crow - limiting BIPOC access to the ballot box. It is undemocratic and thoroughly unAmerican.

Elif Iyriboz

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6 because it will hinder our democratic process and inhibit people from participating. I support expanded access to the ballot box. Additionally, I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I fully support no-excuse vote by mail.?? We must protect the vote and voice of Texans, not curtail it.

Stephen Sansom, Mr

Self

Austin, TX

Poll and other election watchers should be removed from their watch station not only if their conduct amounts to election fraud under applicable statutes, but also if their conduct is criminal in any other way under applicable statutes.

Jodi Bade

Self

Austin, TX

engagement, I urge you to vote against SB 7 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. SB 7 and HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers.

Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Aimee Tanos

concerned voter

Fort Worth, TX

This is voter suppression. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Figen Iyriboz

self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill and find it offensive as it has no relevance, nor is it based on factual information. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I fully support no-excuse vote by mail.?? The only thing acceptable is increasing criminal penalties against illegal voting. We must do better than this.

Jerilyn Austin

Self

Levelland, TX

I would like to thank you for bringing this bill forward. After the 2020 election, I have lost faith in the election process! I almost was unable to vote in 2020 because somehow my birthday was as changed! I have not changed my name or place of residence so I don't know why there was a change on my voter registration! I have called twice and as of yet, it has not been changed back. Again Thank you

Tamara Reyes, Dr

Self/ Nurse Practitioner

Temple, TX

Our Attorney General has targeted the Black community in his effort to prosecute people for voting mistakes and confusion, and this bill would add many other items to the list of crimes that the AG is authorized to investigate and prosecute Black and Brown folks for. In the rest of the world, we're acknowledging how our criminal justice system has unfairly targeted communities of color and over-criminalization for voting is not the answer. This bill authored by Rep. Cain, wants to move us in the opposite direction.

The bill is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications. In 2020, the TDP mailed 1 million Texas senior citizens applications for vote by mail to help them vote safely during the pandemic -- and the Trump campaign sent these applications to their voters, too. That could be criminal if the Republicans have their way. At the same time, they would ban local election officials from proactively sending these applications to voters, leaving seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot. This bill is unjust for select individuals and clearly supports the agenda of one party.

Victoria Velisek

Heritage Action

Plano, TX

Thanks for a great start to creating election integrity! Please continue to obtain this by including voter ID for mail in and absentee ballots. Also include routine verification of voter rolls and new voter registration! Thank you

Laura Klein Plunkett

Self -- Retired Operations Manager

Georgetown, TX

I support HB 6 and it's outlined measures to improve the security of the voting process in Texas, and I urge all representatives to pass this bill. We need to stop as much fraud and voting irregularities as possible. Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democratic republic.

Damon Vance

Self - Construction Program Director

San Anotnio, TX

Hi, my name is Damon Vance and I'm a constituent from San Antonio, TX.

I'm writing to ask your support for the following critical reforms to strengthen Texas' election laws. We must ensure our elections are secure, fair, and transparent.

Thank you for the work already underway. House Bill 6 and Senate Bill 7 are a good start—these bills increase poll worker access and also prohibit the insecure practice of ballot harvesting.

But they can be improved upon by addition of the following:

1. Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
2. Routine maintenance to verify accuracy of voter rolls and new registrations

Thank you for the work already underway. Please continue to work to strengthen our election security laws, because it should be easy to vote, but hard to cheat.

Eric Mickett, Mr.

Self

Mansfield, TX

This looks like it is a step in the right direction. But we still need to become a Second Amendmen FREE State. Or at least a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State!

Jennifer Douglas

self - project manager and volunteer deputy voter registrar

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box, online voter registration, no-excuse vote by mail, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. If we are to be a truly democratic society, then everyone deserves to have the opportunity to vote in the way that works best for them, and election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people.

As written, HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities and hourly workers and fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

As a VDR, I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration. Thank you.

Eufredo Flores, Mr.

Taxpayer

San Antonio, TX

I fully support what these legislators ,and congressmen and women are fighting for and will to best of my ability try and support not only with my vote but financially as much as possible .

Maria Wilcox
myself
Killeen, TX

HB6 is voter suppression. Every citizen has a right to vote. Not everybody can vote in person., therefore mail-in-voting should be available to everybody.

Kailea Humphreys
Self
dallas, TX

I support HB 6 and ask all involved to vote in favor of passing this bill. Please add requirements of voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots and routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations to the language of this bill. Thank you!

Edie Rogat
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill! There has been zero evidence of election fraud. This is not needed. We should be making voting easier not harder.

jennifer bullock
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill.

Gary Jensen
Self
Rosenberg, TX

I fully and unabashedly support HB 6. It will be a major step to ensuring election integrity and combating ever-growing election fraud. I would also encourage that documentable identification be required for mail-in as well as absentee ballots. Furthermore I believe that routine and frequent verification of voter rolls and new registrations be enshrined in this legislation.

Sadia Ali
Self
Austin, TX

This is unbelievable that people are even considering voting access restriction. People should have the maximum opportunity to vote and have weekend and after hours voting options.

Alexis Webster

Self, Educational Consultant

Austin, TX

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against HB 6. This bill unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Thank you.

Annette Vandewerken

Self

Austin, TX

I am definitely FOR this bill. Election integrity is a cornerstone of our representative republic & it is imperative for the state legislature to take this responsibility seriously. Strict safeguards to ensure that all votes are legal, have appropriate/secure chain of custody, are easily auditable do not contribute to voter suppression. In fact they assure the validity of everyone's votes. There should be criminal penalties for those who break or manipulate election safeguards.

Frank Tenhoopen

Self Retired

Lucas, TX

Please seriously consider saving our top-of-line election system by voting casting a vote FOR the citizens of Texas.

Marion Mlotok

self/retired

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It promotes voter suppression and a flagrant disregard for democracy and counting everyone's votes.

Jennifer Touchton

self - Sr. Business Analyst

Austin, TX

It should be made easier to vote, not harder. Voting is a fundamental right in any democracy. The best case scenario is when EVERYONE votes. The worst case scenario is when only some people are allowed to vote.

Ayse Iyriboz

Myself

Austin, TX

Against

Mary Sullivan

self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Connie Matthews, CPA

Self - accountant

Temple, TX

I respectfully request that the committee base its decision on factual evidence based information only and not hearsay or anecdotal evidence. There is no objective evidence of voter fraud which would require these measures. The measures would significantly reduce access to voting by Texans. Texas lawmakers are sworn to uphold the constitution which provides the right to vote for all Texans. Please consider your duty to protect that right in the interest of a free and fair democracy.

Dynisha Randle

Self, Communications Director

Houston, TX

This bill and others like it around the country are meant to circumvent the will of the people by creating unlawful barrier to voting especially for people of color. In a state consistently ranking in the bottom of voter turnout how do you justify any attempts to make voting harder. Instead of finding ways to include all voters in the process the Texas Legislature is again wasting my time and tax dollars of fighting against the people instead of for them.

Gentry McLean

self, patent attorney

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB6. I have been a volunteer deputy registrar in Texas for 4 years and have spoken to numerous potential voters. The "prevention of fraud" touted by the sponsors of HB 6 is not needed. No one in Texas has found evidence of anything significant in the way of voter fraud. Barriers to voting, on the other hand, are numerous, and this bill only makes them worse. Many people I spoke to registering voters weren't aware that they could still vote if their driver's license had expired (a common occurrence during the pandemic), for example. If voters aren't sure they are eligible, they won't want to wait in a long line to find out they can't vote, so they don't try. Creating criminal offenses out of honest mistakes will only make people less likely to vote and less likely to help register voters, which is already a difficult process in Texas.

Britt Garner

self

Austin, TX

This bill is not needed. There is no voter fraud to speak of in Texas and this is pure voter suppression.

Sarah Lewis

Self

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Samantha Chang

VDR, SELF

Austin, TX

I oppose HB6 and efforts to restrict voting and voters' rights. Texans already have hurdles to jump through in order to vote. Adding more prevents many eligible voters from voting.

Cari Marshall

Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Austin, TX

STOP MAKING IT HARDER TO VOTE!!! I support expanded access to the ballot box, online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? Stop disenfranchising your constituents!!

Katherine Diamond

Self-medical coder

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

Tony Zink

Self

San Antonio, TX

Texas does not need more restrictions that prevent voters access to the ballot box. Texas is one of only 10 states that do not allow online voter registration. Limiting access to the ballot box is unconstitutional.

Cecelia Gonzalez-Dippel

Self/ Mayor of Floresville, Tx

Floresville, TX

I am Cecelia Gonzalez-Dippel, citizen and current Mayor of the city of Floresville, Tx.

On July 17th of 2019 my council called for a special meeting and voted unanimously to move our city elections from November to May. Our city charter calls for elections to be held in May, but the council in 2011 voted to move city elections from May to November as they could at that time, but the window to move them back to May has since lapsed. In my research, all written and verbal opinions on the legality of this move back to May states that this is against the current election laws of the State of Texas.

The council refused to resend the ordinance that changed the election dates and after notifying county and state agencies who I thought would rectify this movement, myself and Nick Nissen, David Johns and Paul Sack, who were going to be candidates for the upcoming positions came together and decided to do everything we could to insure our city follow the laws of the state of Texas.

Our hope was that the agency or agencies, we felt could uphold the law would do so, but we quickly found out that our county and state officials agreed it was not in the election laws, but would not go forward with any action, leaving the four of us as citizens and as Mayor to go forward with a civil lawsuit.

It has been almost a year and a half and yet our case is in the court with no final determination. The process to stand by the law has been at the least to say stressful. The four of us and our families have been under financial and emotional stress to try to hold up the letter of the law in our city.

I watched another city in Texas propose to move their postponed election from November to May and the State attorney General's office within days ruled they could not and yet we in our community continue to wait for a final ruling.

I am a citizen of Floresville and Wilson county and feel neglected by city and state officials to do what is right.

As you consider legislation on the State of Texas Election Codes, please consider all cities and counties, whether small like Floresville or large cities like Austin.

Lisa Coleman

Self

Houston, TX

Election Integrity is of the utmost importance in preserving the constitutional republic that is America. We absolutely cannot allow another miscarriage of justice that was the 2020 election.

Susan Korbel, Dr.

Volunteer Deputy Registrar

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I oppose HB 6 because 276.015 restricts citizens from helping others learn about and apply for the vote by mail option who are eligible to seek this option. Over the past year, during the times of COVID, there were many seniors who had difficulty accessing online forms, and I was able to help them get their VBM application. I consider this a civic duty to help others without access to the technical tools the support they need.

Sue Bullock, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

I fully support this bill because it addresses directly the flaws in our election process. I am 100% for Texas leading the way toward stalwart integrity of our elections. Thank you for your patriotism and devotion to duty!

Elizabeth Richter

self

KERRVILLE, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours, and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

Suzann Madeley

Self/retired

Austin, TX

Please spend your time on something that will help Texans. There is virtually no voter fraud. Meanwhile many Texans don't have food or jobs or homes.

Robert Gratz

self - Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Lockhart, TX

As a volunteer deputy voter registrar and election judge, I can tell you firsthand that HB6 is not helpful. Voting in Texas is already difficult and complicated enough. HB6 will take us in the wrong direction and will make voting even more difficult than it already is.

As a seventh-generation Texan, I know that our ancestors believed in civic engagement and fairness. We should be making it easier to register and vote and HB6 does neither. I encourage you to pursue same-day and online voter registration. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it will also save taxpayer dollars.

Very truly,

R David Gratz

Lockhart, TX (the BBQ Capital of Texas)

Tina Hester

Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Austin, TX

Please oppose HB 6. We should be focusing on making voting more accessible, not less.

Michelle Manning-Scott

Self/community volunteer w/various Austin area non-profits

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE the passage of this bill and urge all lawmakers to vote AGAINST it.

Christine Pollom

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It is just another way to try to suppress votes. We should make it as easy as possible for everyone to vote.

Leticia Rojas

self; communications professional

Houston, TX

This bill is an affront to your constituents, to Texans at large and democracy itself. This bill would silence the voices of hundreds of thousands of Texans, especially voices of color and the disabled. Purging the voter rolls, establishing arbitrary voting hours and restricting new, innovative practices like drive-thru voting and proactive vote-by-mail application outreach are nothing but a shameful attempt to hold on to power. Stop wasting my tax dollars trying to find nonexistent cases of voter fraud and try actually governing so you can win elections fair and square.

Kimberly Parsons

Self - Homemaker

Jefferson, TX

I oppose HB 6. Texas has some of the most stringent voting laws in the country. The optics are that the GOP wants to win by disenfranchising voters. NOT a good look!

Dixie Davis

Patriotic Citizen

Kyle, TX

The "purity" of the ballot box is not in question. It is a smoke screen to disenfranchise the poor and those who work jobs they can't take off. It's a plan to disenfranchise people like my husband, a truck driver who is gone away from home far more than he's at home. It's part of a plan to limit "democracy" to those who support a radical, anti-American agenda, while disenfranchising all other voices.

In a democracy, every citizen's voice matters. HB 6 seeks to silence many voices, predominantly those of the working poor.

Rebekah Janes

Self, office manager

Austin, TX

I am very much opposed to HB6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Cissy Sanders

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Committe Members,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to HB6. This legislation suppresses an individual's right to vote. This legislation betrays civic engagement and the very cornerstone of our democracy. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support vote by mail. Texas needs to hear the voices of all of its citizens at the ballot box. Lawmakers should not pick and choose which of their constituents that they want to vote. Lawmakers are elected by the people. Lawmakers' salaries are paid for by taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the people paying the lawmakers' salaries are the ones that get to pick who they want to serve them; not the other way around.

Bradley Gilbert

Concerned citizen

Kerrville, TX

This would be a step backwards for our democracy. Voter suppression is unconscionable.

Laura Weaver

self/retired

Spring, TX

I am against HB 6, as I am against any bill that limits the efforts of election workers to protect voters against illegal harassment by watchers. I have been a Volunteer Deputy Registrar, and I have worked at polling places during elections. I have seen first-hand the kind of harassment that can happen at the polls, and have seen election workers intervene to stop it. Please don't support HB 6, which limits EVERY ELEGIBLE CITIZEN'S ability to vote.

Susan Markus

self, retired

Austin, TX

I write to oppose this bill. It is well established Texas does not have a voter fraud or voter security problem. Despite much effort and scrutiny, officials have found only 16 instances of voter irregularity have been found in the last many years. In fact, Texas needs to make voting easier, not harder. The Covid pandemic revealed how important vote by mail, expanded voting days and hours, and online registration are to preserving and promoting voting. As a Texas senior citizen I am especially concerned that vote by mail - a long, longstanding practice in our and many other states - be preserved and strengthened. I hope we all still agree that voting is a fundamental of our democracy, and that we want all eligible voters to be able to vote easily and conveniently. The push to pass laws to inhibit voters under the pretense of a non-existent voter security problem make me wonder otherwise. Oppose HB 6!

Lisa Blackwell

self, voter

Spring, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! I encourage you to EXPAND voter rights, not limit them. We should encourage people to engage in democracy. I want Texas to offer either online registration, as nearly every other state does.

Julia Mickenberg, Dr.

Self, teacher and also VDR

Austin, TX

I am deeply disheartened by efforts to thwart democracy by restricting voting access and gerrymandering districts. If politicians want to hold power they should do that by serving their constituents. Republicans seem to be admitting that they can only win by rigging the vote because their policies have become so unpopular. Why not focus on the latter instead of thwarting democracy?

George Kleinert

MYSELF

Sadler, TX

Thank you for working to strengthen Texas' election laws. I implore you to pass HB6. Thank you ??

Robin McKeever, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

Good morning. I'm a retired senior citizen who cares about good government. I'm a third generation Texan of Scots Irish descent. I grew up in far South Texas and still have family there. I am 72 and I have voted in nearly every election large and small since I became registered in my teens. I have lived in Austin for many decades.

I care deeply about the issues before you in HB 6. I am not representing any group, nor do I come at the urging of anyone. I learned about this bill from reading the newspaper, and it made me mad enough to read the bill.

My message is this: HB 6 as it stands is a bad bill. It is based transparently on the worst sort of hypocrisy. There is almost no election fraud, contrary to coordinated campaigns of misinformation that are intended to protect the status quo of partisan division so damaging to all of us. The effects of this bill would be to strengthen voter suppression at a pivotal point in Texas history. Dramatic population growth and cultural diversity should instead inspire your efforts to increase the access of voters to election ballots and their basic constitutional right and civic responsibility.

I say make this bill a whole lot better or kill it dead fast.

MICHAEL CRAIGUE

self / security

Austin, TX

This bill is unnecessary and harmful. President Trump and his allies created dozens of baseless claims about election fraud, and those claims were laughed out of court.

See: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/01/conspiracy-theories-will-doom-republican-party/617707/>
Sen Ben Sasse (R-NE) writing in The Atlantic Jan 16, 2021:

"Until last week, many party leaders and consultants thought they could preach the Constitution while winking at QAnon. They can't. The GOP must reject conspiracy theories or be consumed by them. Now is the time to decide what this party is about."

"The conservative swaths of this media landscape were primed for Trump's "Stop the steal" lie, which lit the fuse for the January 6 riot. For nine weeks, the president consistently lied that he had "won in a landslide." Despite the fact that his lawyers and allies were laughed out of court more than 60 times, he spread one conspiracy theory after another across television, radio, and the web. For anyone who wanted to hear that Trump won, a machine of grifters was turning clicks into cash by telling their audiences what they wanted to hear. The liars got rich, their marks got angry, and things got out of control."

Pamela Cheatham, Ms.

Myself

Houston, TX

I think this is a much needed bill to put our elections back on track. I pray COMMON SENSE WILL PREVAIL! And anyone one not supporting this bill needs to step down because you are Not working for the best interest of WE THE PEOPLE!

Alix Scarborough

self, transportation consultant

Austin, TX

I do NOT support this bill. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Michael Hommel

self, Video Game Developer

Killeen, TX

The sponsors of this bill should be ashamed, trying to curb voting in the great state of Texas. I worked on the ballot board here in Killeen in the November election, and as you can imagine, Killeen is a very red area, so our ballot board was led by Republicans. Even they were absolutely clear and well aware that there was NO fraud of any kind. And working on that board taught me something that our legislators could stand to learn - just how secure and excellently managed our mail-in voting system is. Our state should absolutely offer unrestricted (and automatic) mail-in voting for all citizens. To pretend that there is actually some sort of criminality or risk to this is, first of all, disingenuous - I do not believe the sponsors actually believe it exists either, it just suits their politics to claim it - and second of all, if any of the sponsors had ever worked a ballot board, they would know the facts - that fraud is virtually nonexistent in our elections, and preventing it is very easy and already handled by existing systems. The real threat to our democracy, obviously, is runaway legislation attempting to block voting.

The more people have access to voting, the easier it is made to do, the more our nation benefits. Putting restrictions on voting is profoundly unamerican and wrong. HB6 should not pass, and neither should the many other anti-voting bills that are up in our legislature this year.

Diane Spradlin

Self

DALLAS, TX

A good start but further improvement is needed on this bill. Please include:

- Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Election integrity should be at the top of the list for our Texas elected officials.

Diane Spradlin

Erin McRae, Mrs.

self (editor)

Austin, TX

There have been no significant credible reports of voter fraud in Texas; therefore, this bill appears to be an attempt at voter suppression. I support expanded voter access to the ballot box, including online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. For those who cannot make it to vote in person, I support no-excuse voting by mail, and I also support same-day voter registration. We already have all of the necessary laws in place to stop voter fraud. Past and present efforts to gerrymander districts and restrict voter access are thinly disguised attempts at voter suppression. As a 6th generation Texan, I find this bill and other such efforts to be reprehensible, as they restrict our freedoms as Texans and citizens of the United States.

Brad Bryant

Self

Eules, TX

I encourage you to support this bill along with the following provisions:

Voter ID for absentee and mail in ballots

Routine Voter roll verification

More in depth analysis of voting machines

Glenna Howell

self

Taylor, TX

Vote NO! There is very little voter fraud in Texas. Voting is a right! We should be making it easier for people to vote and take away their ability to vote.

Anuva Bonzek

Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Auston, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Anna Stewart

self

AUSTIN, TX

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 6, GV 2197, and HB 3285. Senate Bill 7 and House Bill 6 are fundamentally anti-democratic, anti-voter assaults on the right to vote.

Marissa Curtis Gough, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls and hourly workers. I do not believe that there is evidence or rampant elections fraud, and making it more difficult for individuals to vote does not make elections more fair, it is voter suppression. Texas is the third state I've lived in as an adult and has been the hardest to navigate voter registration. I urge you to support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. Voting should be easily accessible to all eligible voters and I do not support making it more difficult for Texans to vote.

Niessa Meier

Self

kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail. Our democracy requires the voice of the people.

Richard Monts

self retired

Kerrville, TX

Voting should be in person on day of election. Very limited exceptions. Registration should be done some time ahead of election and is the responsibility of prospective voter to get registered and prove citizenship as an absolute requirement. All funding and manpower within the jurisdiction of the office sought. No outside money! The people in the district should be able to decide without outside big money influence. No unsolicited mass mailings, it is a waste of money and effort, the citizens should take the effort to vote, there is no need to send blind mailings, it is rife with opportunity for fraud. The citizen interested in voting should exert the effort to do so. The government should not be in the business of soliciting votes by sending blind mailing or any other effort to solicit. If the individual does not wish to vote that is their decision. Registration should be only to determine that the person applying be eligible with straight forward requirement uniformly used. All citizens should be treated equally to provide integrity in elections.

Erin Boase

self and attorney

Austin, TX

I am very concerned that this bill will impede rather than expand voting integrity. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? Everyone should be allowed to vote without the legislature trying to restrict that access.

Solange Hommel

self, writer

KILLEEN, TX

I am writing as a concerned citizen and an informed Texas voter to speak against HB 6. This bill is just one of many being used to constrict the voting rights of BIPOC Texans, creating confusion and implementing excessive punishments for voting mistakes. The broad nature of this bill would prevent parties, candidates, and organizations from providing important voting materials to voters across the state, particularly disenfranchising those who already face challenges in utilizing their right to vote. Elderly voters, voters with disabilities and low-income voters would all be disproportionately impacted by this bill. As Harris County Judge Hidalgo said, "What these folks are doing are simply continuing the trend that's been going on since Reconstruction, through Jim Crow and up to today: trying to confuse voters, intimidate voters and enact policies that keep people from the ballot box."

It is particularly disheartening to know that this is all common knowledge. It's not an accident that Republicans are targeting these voters by restricting voter rights, it's the intended outcome. I find it appalling that Texas Republicans are so willing to sacrifice the rights of the people they purport to represent in order to maintain their suffocating grasp on power.

As a constituent, a Texan, and a compassionate human concerned for the rights of ALL members of my community, I ask that HB 6 and other bills like it be set aside in favor of justice, equality, and fair democracy for ALL. I do not support any effort to curtail or limit the voting rights of my fellow citizens. I expect my elected officials to protect the rights of ALL voters as sacrosanct.

Montie Shelton

retired

Huntsville, TX

I was devastated by the many examples of fraud in our election. Thank you for addressing the issue. Please add voter ID for absentee ballots as well as signature verification. Requiring ID is the best defense against fraud. IDs are required for doctor visits and business transactions. Every responsible citizen has one.

Elisabeth Thomas

Self - teacher

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

Connie Sheldon

Retired

The Hills, TX

I oppose this measure. There is not evidence of election fraud. I want every eligible voter to be able to vote as easily as possible. There should be no criminal penalties for exercising the right to vote. Purity of the ballot box is some manufactured term to keep people from voting. OPPOSE all the way

Robin Rieck

self, bookkeeper

Cedar Creek, TX

This long list of new and amended regulations creates solutions for problems that simply do not exist. Much of this would intimidate voters, election workers and the public officials who perform to the very best of their ability to ensure that we have free and fair elections. And, if passed, it is highly likely that parts of this bill would be challenged in court. Let's not waste valuable time and resources fixing what is not broken in this state when there are so many things that need to be fixed. And let's focus on ways to encourage participation in our election process by voters and election workers rather than casting a cloud of threats and intimidation over the process when there is no indication that serious, widespread election fraud has occurred in our state. "If it ain't broke then don't fix it."

Mary Eisenberg

self-retired

Lockhart, TX

I oppose HB 6. I have been a voter registrar and an election clerk. I have not seen any evidence of voter irregularities. Texas should not make it more difficult to vote. People should not be afraid to vote.

Amy Courtney

Self

Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly OPPOSE HB6!!! Voter suppression is criminal and this bill would most certainly further that effort and create even greater voting rights disparities. STOP HB6!!!

Jane Jessop

Concerned citizen

Maxwell, TX

This is not a problem, you are making unnecessary changes. Our election process is great.

Tommie Lee

Self Electrician

corpus christi, TX

I agree with this bill. VOTE YES! This will be great to bring integrity to our elections. Thank you

Roberta Amley

Self/retired

Houston, TX

All the provisions of this bill will help provide for election integrity.

In addition, it is also important to require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots and require routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.

Thank you for your work to strengthen Texas' voter laws.

Daniel Riegel
Concerned Voter
Austin, TX

As a concerned voter who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote AGAINST HB 6. HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. HB 6 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

HB 6 makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration. Thank you.

Richard Kelsheimer
Myself
Arlington, TX

I strongly encourage the Elections Committee to push this HB 6 forward so that it can be voted on by our Legislature. It is imperative that we have election integrity. Voting by mail should only be for individuals that are disabled due to health conditions or elderly and would be considered difficult if not impossible to get there. If you can go to the grocery store to buy groceries then there is no reason you cannot show up, prove your identity with some official documentation and proof from the State of Texas who you are. It must be illegal for individuals to harvest votes punishable by time in prison if found guilty. Arrangements should be made to allow sufficient poll watchers to provide more oversight and transparency in the voting process in order to maintain true accountability. There should be routine review of voter rolls and registration. No one other than the registered voter should be able to request a vote by mail ballot and only in the event for disability, health or in service of our country.

Benjamin Liles, Dr.
self
SALADO, TX

I am stunned by the intent of this bill. For many years I have worked as an election clerk and have seen many ways we have accommodated people who have come to vote and needed assistance which this bill would deny: Elderly people with valid voter ID cards who were not ambulatory and I had to take a ballot to the car they were driven to the polls in for them to vote; several people who were legally blind who needed the ballot to be read to them and their hand guided to their choice on the touch screen (and after the print-out appeared, read their choices back to them to be sure their choices were marked); and on and on. These people would be denied the ability to vote with HB 6. Even I, at the age of 82, might be denied the chance to vote when I ask for a mail-in ballot. This bill clearly is not aimed at securing the vote but it's aimed at denying the vote. It should be defeated.

Cynthia Drake
Self, Writer

Pflugerville, TX

I urge you to take the time to hear in-person testimony from constituents who would be directly impacted by this bill. Any attempt to thwart voting rights, or to remove protections to voters in a free and fair election, is unacceptable.

Rebecca Shields

Self

Houston, TX

I am OPPOSED to all voter suppression as embodied in this bill!

Sarah Distel

Self

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

William Fitch

Self - Retired

Kerrville, TX

If we cannot trust that our elections are fair and that every legal vote is counted, why vote at all. Please pass this bill.

Hannah Foarde

Self

Kyle, TX

I strongly oppose this reckless legislation which threatens the democracy of our entire country, voters will not be denied their voice!

Linda Guy

self. concerned voter & Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Austin, TX

As a native Texan & lifelong voter, I oppose this 'false flag' of preventing non-existent fraud leads to further voter suppression! we don't need to make it harder to vote & to help others do their civic duty by criminalizing minor errors. thank you.

Monica Shevell

Self

Dallas, TX

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against SB 7 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. SB 7 and HB 6 unduly impact voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Thank you,
Monica Shevell
Dallas, TX 75254

Marty Pearson, Ms.

self - retired

Forney, TX

The disaster that was our election this past November left almost everyone with doubts that the votes cast were valid and that the votes were counted correctly. The election process in every state MUST be cleaned up, including in our beloved Texas! ALL voters must be required to show a valid photo ID. This is NOT voter suppression since a photo ID is required for so many things that are far less important! Mail-in ballots and absentee ballots MUST be requested to a verified citizen of this state, and a valid reason must be given! Also, early voting must be shortened at the very least, if not eliminated completely.

In-person voting is MUCH more secure, unrequested vote-by-mail ballots must NEVER be sent to voters (their validity and status CANNOT be verified!); ballot harvesting must be made virtually impossible and all verified poll watchers MUST have full access to do their jobs so the validity of each vote can be verified.

PLEASE MAKE OUR ELECTIONS SECURE AND TRUSTWORTHY!

Grace Matthews

self

Austin, TX

This is a solution for a problem that does not exist, and is a transparent effort to make the ballot box less accessible to Texans. In the last election, court after court found no evidence of widespread voter fraud. The legislature should be working to make voting accessible to every Texan, including our poor, disabled, and non-english speaking citizens by expanding voting hours, expanding access to mail-in voting, and reducing barriers to individuals being able to vote. We need same day voter registration. Every state and federal election day should be a state holiday. Please stop wasting taxpayer dollars on an effort to stop the supposed election fraud that has been repeatedly disproven, and make it so that every Texan who wants to vote can do so without having to take time off work or jump through bureaucratic hoops.

Sarah Traugott

self / librarian

Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Drake Meier

Self seller/server

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box, online voter registration, expanded voting hours, and longer voting periods. I support no excuse vote by mail. We must provide every citizen with ample opportunity to exercise voice in their government.

Carolyn Scarborough

self

AUSTIN, TX

This is taking us back to Jim Crow days - I strongly oppose!!!! Shame on you!!

Munira Fareed

Concerned voter, business owner

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Marianne Arnold

Self/retired

Kurten, TX

I believe deeply in the right and obligation of every eligible adult to elect the people who govern them. Because of that belief I have worked as a volunteer in nearly every election since 2012. HB6 erodes the right to vote for many people; people with disabilities who often have limited access to transportation, people whose work schedules don't allow them to vote between 7 and 7 on election day, people who cannot afford to wait long hours in line.

HB6 is blatantly partisan and is a step back to the Jim Crow era. It is incompatible with democracy.

Victoria Little

Self

Dallas, TX

EVERY election needs to be fair and open for voters and the poll workers. In Dallas, for early voting in “non-partisan” elections, apparently these elections can be staffed with only Democrat judges and their clerks. That is fair and open? In light of the mistrust from the elections of 2020, how can this be true? Election integrity and confidence in our voting system must be restored. We should start by restoring integrity at the local level. The current system for selecting election workers for early voting in “non-partisan” elections is broken and needs to be fixed. A judge/alternate judge or a judge/clerk option where both

parties are represented should be the standard for every election every location - partisan or non-partisan. Voter ID, in person voting , voting in your precinct, paper ballots, with the presumption of audits, absentee ballots due 10 days before the election, felony penalties for election fraud and those who interfere in Texas elections -all are measures that will help to restore confidence and ensure that each legal vote counts.

Frances McNair

Self

San Marcos, TX

I object to any bill which restricts the right to vote.

Melisa Santillano

Concerned voter

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Kenneth Shilkun

Deputy Registrar Gillespie county

Fredericksburg, TX

Limiting voter access to voting opportunities is anti democratic.

Susan Dantzler

Self

Harper, TX

I absolutely support HB 6. We must rein in fraud and abuse in Texas elections. The people of Texas must know that their vote counts and polling officials must be held to uphold our laws. Loopholes must be closed. If we are to ever have fair elections in Texas we must be dedicated to eliminating voter and polling staff fraud.

Kelly Whelan

Self

AUSTIN, TX

This bill is blatant, unmasked voter suppression. We don't have an election fraud issue in Texas, or in America for that matter. There are so many other things you should be focusing on to help us, your constituents, and you are spending time on something that isn't even a real issue in our state. You aren't helping anyone with this bill, you are hurting voters. Our country is built on our democracy and the right to vote is foundational in ensuring that democracy runs properly. This bill only serves to undermine our right to vote, thereby undermining our democracy. It is shameful.

Kelly Whelan

Self

AUSTIN, TX

This bill is blatant, unmasked voter suppression. We don't have an election fraud issue in Texas, or in America for that matter. There are so many other things you should be focusing on to help us, your constituents, and you are spending time on something that isn't even a real issue in our state. You aren't helping anyone with this bill, you are hurting voters. Our country is built on our democracy and the right to vote is foundational in ensuring that democracy runs properly. This bill only serves to undermine our right to vote, thereby undermining our democracy. It is shameful.

Sarah Bentley

self

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE House Bill 6, which is a fundamentally anti-democratic, anti-voter assault on the right to vote. Last year's election showed that we can increase voter turnout and keep our elections secure if we adopt common-sense reforms. Instead of supporting these efforts, Gov. Abbott and his allies have ripped a page straight out of the Jim Crow playbook by trying to make it more difficult to vote.

Lynne Jones

Self

Missouri City, TX

I am extremely concerned & angry about these proposed measures. They would primarily be suppressing voter turnout, which is just wrong on so many levels. We need to make it easier for our Texas citizens to vote, not making it harder. The concept that this bill is for election security is gaslighting at its finest.

Felicity Maxwell

Self

Austin, TX

HB6 adds unnecessary, unwarranted restrictions on voting and should not be passed. Texas already has very low voter turnout and essentially no voter fraud. This bill makes it harder to vote and threatens our democracy. Do not support or move forward with HB6

Palmer Moe, MR

self

Sunrise Beach, TX

I support the provisions of HB 6 and ask that consideration be given to adding voter ID for mail-in and absentee ballots and provide for verification of voter rolls and new registrations.. Texas needs to insure that all votes are legal votes and that vote tallying is transparent.

Charles Barksdale

concerned voter

San Antonio, TX

I don't believe we've seen evidence of widespread fraud in Texas thus this bill is a solution looking for a problem. If passed this will disenfranchise many minority voters and is not necessary.

Augusta Levine, Ms

Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It pretends to preserve the integrity of our elections, but it's real purpose is to suppress voting by those who cannot vote on election day. Why would you want to limit the number of people who can vote? Where is your proof of massive voter fraud? The truth is that we should be expanding the opportunities for voting by as many people as possible rather than restricting them.

Tammie Hartgroves, Honorable

Deputy Voter Registrar and McLennan County Early Ballot Board Judge

McGregor, TX

This bill as written is blatant voter suppression, not only for people of color but also for disabled Texans, those living in rural and non-urban areas and college students. I am a voter and I am disabled. If you require disabled persons to provide either a physician's note, copy of their Social Security Disability Letter or VA Disability Letter this places an undue burden on the voter in addition to violating my rights to privacy and HIPPA laws. I urge that this bill be tabled until it can be amended to not discriminate against Texans desiring to cast a ballot.

Amber Burfeind, LMSW

Self

Pearland, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill. There were only 2 identified cases of voter fraud out of millions. This bill is voter suppression disguised as election integrity.

Cynthia Reynolds

Self

Austin, TX

As there are very few cases of fraud in the last election, this is an attempt to limit voter participation which is counter to the constitution and good governance. Please vote this down and increase access to all eligible voters in all future elections.

Kelly Schlesinger

Self-Retired

The Woodlands, TX

As a Montgomery County VDR last year I gave people applications to register to vote and applications for mail-in ballots. I looked up Texans' voter registration information to ascertain that they were on their county voter registration lists and the

information was correct. I gave people voter registration forms and, after they completed them, I delivered them to Montgomery County Elections Central. I did this in accordance with state law. Nothing needs to be changed here "relating to purity of the ballot box." Legislators should remember that they serve the people, not the other way around. You should be making voter registration and casting ballots EASIER, not harder. To do otherwise is not good government, it is the opposite. And to do it under the pretense that there was fraud in the 2020 election is perpetuating a lie. Vote no on HB6.

Jeni Putalavage-Ross

self

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose this disingenuous attempt to "preserve purity" that is actually a push to suppress voting for anyone who does not vote Republican. I want my elected officials to spend time on actual issues instead of inventing problems that don't exist.

David de la Garza

Self

Austin, TX

This is pure voter suppression and I am heavily opposed to this bill.

Rachel Jackson

Self/Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Austin, TX

As a deputy voter registrar, it's my sworn duty to register eligible voters. I then put the voters in the hands of the elections division of the county where they reside so they can freely and fairly cast their ballot. HB 6 is an affront to an already complex and oftentimes inequitable voting experience. In particular, limiting the number of voting machines at each polling location will dramatically increase wait times during busy times, which could lead to voters not exercising their constitutional right. In 2018, I was a poll worker on the UT Austin campus and unfortunately we had a wait time of 3 hours at some points throughout the day due to a lack of voting machines. If this were to be scaled back even more, it would cause chaos and disenfranchisement.

Texans want voting to be safe, easy and accessible and I urge you to reject this bill.

Thomas Gordon

Self

Temple, TX

HI MY NAME IS THOMAS GORDON
I SUPPORT HB 6 BY CAIN
THANK YOU, THOMAS

Julie Campbell

Voter registrar

Austin, TX

HB 6 unduly impacts citizens with disabilities and hourly voters. FAIR elections depend on the process to work for ALL. HB6 would make it even more difficult to navigate Texas already complicated voting system. Texas should lead the nation in registration, online and same day, not be at the bottom! Please support online registration and same-day voter registration. Keep Texans safe and accessible to the vote!

Thank you.

Nancy Glasscock, Mrs.

Self

Temple, TX

According to CBS News, lawyers for conservative attorney (and right-wing conspiracy theorist) Sidney Powell told a federal court on 03/22/21 that “no reasonable person” would conclude her unfounded claims of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election were statements of fact. Facts are not interchangeable so how does the average voter decipher between fact or fiction? Over the last 20 years, states have put barriers in front of the ballot box - imposing strict voter ID laws, cutting voting times, restricting registration, forcing those with disabilities to show their medical “papers” and purging voter rolls. These efforts, which received a boost when the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act in 2013, have kept significant numbers of eligible voters from the polls, hitting all Americans, but placing special burdens on racial minorities, poor people, the disabled, and young and old voters. Voter purges are an often-flawed process of cleaning up voter rolls by deleting names from registration lists. While updating registration lists as voters die, move, or otherwise become ineligible is necessary and important, when done irresponsibly — with bad data or when two voters are confused for the same person — the process can knock eligible voters off the roll en masse, often with little notice. Many voters discover they’re no longer listed only when they arrive at the polling place. As a result, many eligible Americans either don’t vote or are forced to cast provisional ballots. Over the last decade, jurisdictions have substantially increased the rate at which they purge voter rolls. The increase was highest in states (ie Texas) with a history of voting discrimination. Extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare. Yet repeated, false allegations of fraud can make it harder for millions of eligible Americans to participate in elections. It is important to protect the integrity of our elections. But we must be careful not to undermine free and fair access to the ballot in the name of preventing phantom voter fraud. I’ve work as an election official for over 35 years in various counties throughout the state of Texas. I have yet to encounter a possible, much less probable, voter fraud situation. Typically the most problematic setting is a result of overwhelmed and underpaid county elections administrators/staff and or polling clerks with minimal training. Texas’ elections are marred by an infrastructure that is rickety, excludes too many and is prone to partisan manipulation and deliberate voter suppression that often targets communities of color and young people. Voting should be free, fair and easy. Both Texas Legislative bodies can and SHOULD improve the security of elections without compromising citizens’ right to participate in elections. Voter fraud is unacceptable, but YOU must find solutions that address actual problems instead of imposing policies that make it harder for millions of eligible Texans to participate in our democracy.

Julie Campbell

Voter registrar

Austin, TX

Elections in Texas have been safe and in 2020 turnout was outstanding. There was NO voter fraud. Wasting taxpayer money to further complicate one of the most restricted voting systems in the country is just embarrassing. We want safe accessible elections. Please support online and same-day voter registration. Why is Texas one of only 10 states still so regressive?
Thank you!

Darlene Olden

Self retired

Austin, TX

Please urge every voting on this to pass it. If we do not secure our elections our democracy is over. It does not take a brain surgeon to see the election fraud that went on in the 2020 election. This fraudulent election has created more tension and hate among the American people than anything else and it is totally uncalled for. If there was no fraud committed by the Democrats then they should not have a problem with a clear and unbiased investigation into all the fraudulent claims if for no other reason but to restore trust in the American people.

Sharon Walther

citizen

Austin, TX

This bill contains language that is so full of legalese that an ordinary person cannot possibly know what it is actually saying. Election officials and clerks are not attorneys, and it seems that the overly legalistic language is designed to intimidate people working at the polls. There is repeated use of the word "felony", which is also a scare tactic.

As to the section relating to who may be present during the counting of the votes, this seems to be a knee jerk reaction to procedures implemented during a Pandemic for health and safety reasons, and not with the intent to "steal" an election. We may never have another such event during an election, so all this pearl clutching seems overly reactive and punitive.

If I read this bill correctly, it seems to limit presenting a mail in ballot at the elections office to only the actual day of the election, and to roll back the ability to turn in ballots in person during the entire early voting period. This puts an undue burden on voters and will create long lines and possible transmission of COVID in the short term.

Sharon Walther, citizen

Michelle McComb

Self

Buda, TX

Voting is a sacred right to all Americans and I support individuals having access to vote. It should be as voter friendly as possible with extended hours that accommodate people who work shifts and nights like our police and nurses. I am in favor of early voting as that is when I'm able to vote more efficiently on my lunch hour. I support voting by mail for elderly and those unable to get to polling places. I vote for candidates of both parties depending on who best represents my views. I believe all voices deserve to be heard and participate in elections.

David Vaughn

Self

Waco, TX

According to the person the POTUS 45 appointed to oversee election security, we just had the most secure election in our history. Why would you want to change that? Oh, wait. To keep people with too much pigment in their skin from voting? Gotcha.

And, no.

Katherine Dowling

Self. Retired educator

Conroe, TX

This is yet another voter suppression bill.

Why not make voting easier, more convenient and accessible to Texans while making certain elections continue to be fair and safe for all registered voters.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if more Texans voted, every single election. Now THAT would make Texas accomplished and admirable.

JOE LOCETTA

Self

SPRING, TX

I routinely volunteer to help my Precinct Chair. YourHB6 is a great start and I urge more to encourage myself and other citizens to be active in the election process. Without more rigorous reform, why bother? I suggest the following additions:

- Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
 - Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations
 - Provide voters with way for them to verify if their vote was properly counted.
-

Jennifer Wiebrand

self

Austin, TX

Oppose. We are chasing the boogeyman here. Please stop spending tax dollars chasing fabricated election violations. The only lack of integrity is from those propagating falsehoods about this "threat".

Lauren Post

self

Pflugerville, TX

I disagree with this bill. I believe our last election was secure. I want voting options expanded so more people have more options to vote. There was no proof of fraud and adding new voting options provided more opportunity for those to vote. Going backwards to prevent people from voting is voter suppression. Going forward we should have more early vote days, more mail drop off, more drive through and more 24 hour election voting polls to increase options for voters.

Mary Seberino, Conroe

Self

Conroe, TX

This is a commendable start by the House, and can further be improved upon by:

- Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Please add these to the bill

Catherine Locetta

retired

The Woodlands, TX

HB 6

Election Integrity Bill Comments

Thank you for your efforts to improve election integrity in Texas elections! It is a HUGE challenge in our current cultural decay! Your proposed changes are very disappointing because they fall dreadfully short of securing our vote. Texas cannot have election integrity until we make the following changes:

1. Make election day only one day!
2. Make election day a national holiday!
3. Eliminate all early voting!
4. Make proof of citizenship a requirement to vote in local, state, and federal elections!
5. Make mail in ballot restrictions EXTREMELY strict!
6. Keep the requiring picture ID to be allowed to vote!
7. NO ballot harvesting!
8. Require a minimum of 6 months residency to vote in Texas
9. Close the border to ALL illegal aliens!

I serve as a precinct chair and a judge during elections. These changes must be made to improve election integrity and finally have secure elections.

Thank you,

Cathie Locetta

(281) 433-9306

Montgomery County, Texas

Precinct 71 Chairman & Election Judge

Celina Montoya

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Elizabeth Galiger

self. musician and teacher

Austin, TX

i was raised to believe democracy is a living thing, an action requiring citizen participation. a responsibility. i am in favor of everything that makes it easier for citizens to vote, from extended early voting, mail in and absentee voting, automatic voter registration, time off work to vote, etc. to be against these things is to be against the very concept of democracy.

Rhonda Hurley

Self

Bellaire, TX

I was very disappointed in the 2020 election. There was rampant election fraud through voter harvesting, drive through voters were allowed people to use fake IDs, and probably other methods were used to change the outcome of the election. Please support HB6 to bring back honest and fair elections.

Karen Kate McAfee Campbell, RN, MSN

Self - Registered Nurse

Austin, TX

Dear [legislator],

I am your constituent. I am writing to urge you to vote against SB6 and SB 7 as well as any and all similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to uphold their oath and our democracy by making voting a positive, accurate, and safe experience for all voters.

SB 7 and HB 6 negatively and unduly impact voters with disabilities as well as people transporting voters to the polls. In addition these bills put an undue burden on hourly workers who would have to stand in line longer in order to vote. SB 7 greatly complicates the voting experience by making it extremely difficult to vote and may make people fearful of the voting process. SB 7 and HB 6, and all other bills with similar provisions, make it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. In addition, these bills fail to provide voters with confidence that their vote will be counted.

Texas state and county election officials have confirmed that the 2020 election results accurately reflect the will of the people. We also saw great voter enthusiasm and a significant increase in voter turnout in 2020, despite overwhelming challenges such as the pandemic. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

Instead, I encourage you to support online voter registration as well as same-day voter registration as both of these can save taxpayers from dealing with the antiquated voter registration system in Texas. It's embarrassing that Texas is one of only 10 states left that do not yet have online registration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Karen Campbell RN, MSN

Naomi Hewitt

self, retired

Houston, TX

Thank you for supporting the provisions included in HB 6 and others that will bring integrity to our voting process. Voter identification is a key aspect of facilitating a voting process that reflects the will of the citizens of Texas.

Lana Hansen

Self/ Executive Director

Manchaca, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. This bill will be used to disenfranchise voters. I am appalled that the Texas Legislative would even consider legislation that would further disenfranchise voters.

STEPHEN CHELOTTI

Self

Wharton, TX

This bill is designed to stop and hinder people from their right to vote.

If passed, this bill will give power to the State to make legal votes worthless.

This bill:

- Seeks to add criminal penalties to many parts of the Election Code and foster voter purges

- Could potentially inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications

- Authorizes the the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute people for voting mistakes and confusion

I strongly oppose a yes vote on this destructive bill.

Neha Valmiki

Self

Austin, TX

As a senior at the University of Texas at Austin involved in the voting community, I've seen firsthand how the processes in Texas can make it very difficult for so many people to vote. Instead of making it easier and more accessible, HB6 would create even more barriers to vote for those who are struggling the most. Texas has made so much progress in terms of voter turnout this past year, and we shouldn't turn this trend backwards. This bill is especially harmful to marginalized communities who may need assistance at the polls as well. I strongly urge the members of this committee to vote against HB6 and protect our voting rights.

Ruth Hall

Self

Muleshoe, TX

I strongly oppose HR6. I believe that the is nothing short of voter suppression. Texas needs to move forward not backward!

Bethany Rhoades

Self - teacher

Cedar Park, TX

I support widespread access to voting. Trying to make it hard or nigh impossible for eligible voters to vote is contrary to Texans' rights. We need to make it easier for qualified individuals to vote. "Voter fraud" has rarely happened, based on factual records of such, and the supposed cure of making things harder for the masses is far worse than the supposed disease. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I also support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Ginger Mayeaux

The Arc of Texas

Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB6. I am the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for The Arc of Texas. The Arc of Texas promotes, protects, and advocates for the human rights and self-determination of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This includes ensuring Texans with disabilities can vote privately and independently with proper access, accommodations, and support.

We respect the intention of HB6 and support election integrity and security. However, we do not support the provisions that impact the ability of Texans with disabilities to participate in the democratic process. Access to the electoral process for people with disabilities matters to all Texans, because public confidence in our system of democracy is based on knowing that all eligible voters are able to participate and have their vote count.

We oppose adding unnecessary and excessive requirements for people who assist voters with disabilities (Section 4.01) The new form that requires additional intrusive information and increasing penalties for unlawfully assisting a voter will cause a chilling effect and complicate the voting process. Both provisions will lead to unnecessary confusion, or even voters with disabilities losing their support person and going without the help they need to cast a ballot as they choose. People such as poll workers, who may not be familiar with support for individuals with IDD, may misunderstand cuing, prompting, and other ways people comprehend and remember information as abuse or exploitation of the voter. However, people with disabilities have proven they are proud of their right to choose who and what to vote for, just like everyone else. In addition, requiring supporters to provide voter ID violates the Voting Rights Act, and diminishes people with disabilities' right to choose their specific own support. People have the right to choose someone who understands their support needs and allows them to vote as they see fit, not as their supporter may vote. A supporter's ability to do this, is not based on them having a specific form of voter ID. Self-advocacy groups continuously teach self-advocacy skills, including voting rights, and how to make informed choices. However, there is a misconception that people with disabilities are likely to be exploited and need protection. This provision will reduce the amount of valid voting—not prevent presumptive fraud.

The above requirements does not consider the lived experience of people with disabilities and the reasons accommodations were put in place. We urge the committee to work with Texans with disabilities to amend the bill and ensure all Texans have the support they need to vote. Voting is a fundamental civil right as American citizens and as Texans. I look forward to working with Representative Cain and others moving forward.

Kipa Smith

Self

Austin, TX

We need a democracy that makes it easier for all citizens to vote, not harder. Please focus on actual problems, like our electric grid and not these made up issues if voter fraud. There is No evidence of voter fraud that would change the the outcome of any election. Shame on you got trying to destroy democracy

Riley Milligan, ESQ.

Self / attorney

Waxahachie, TX

The preservation of our elections against fraud is the most important topic confronting our state and our country. There is no question that rampant voter fraud and vote tampering resulted in the “election” of a puppet president and his whore of a running mate. While Texas cannot control the elections in other states, it is essential that Texas shore up its own elections to prevent our own vote scandals. The enemies of our Republic, liberals/progressives/leftists, have shown their contempt for our civilization and laws by flooding our state with third world peasants and other undesirables. These illegal invaders will be used by the enemies of

our Republic to overturn the will of Texas voters and implement a stranglehold on the rights of US Citizens.

Rodrigo Aramburu

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 6 because I believe that access to voting should be simpler and less encumbering than it currently is.

Countless studies and research have proven that concerns about voter fraud are misplaced and unfounded.

Restrictions on voting do not create impediments to fraud, which has time and again through numerous studies proven to be inordinately small; they in fact, place restrictions on the civic franchise of voting.

To make myself clear, presumed voting safeguards do nothing but disenfranchise citizens from their right to vote. They are tried and true tactics of a foregone

For this reason, I vehemently oppose HB 6.

Betty (Eilizabeth) Anderson, Mrs.

self

Spring, TX

I want to speak in favor of this bill on election integrity.

Carol Bryant

Deputy Voter Registrar

Canyon Lake, TX

Voting is a right and should be made easier not harder.

Shah Neha

Self - VDR

Austin, TX

This bill will not do what it intends. In fact it would serve as voter suppression and go against the great ideal and mission of democracy.

Annaliese Tassano

Self

Austin, TX

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against HB 6 which unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers.

Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting

a positive experience. HB 6 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Thank you, Annaliese Tassano

Erin Russell

Self

Lakeway, TX

I am against all voter suppression.

Heather Masters

Self

Austin, TX

There is virtually no voter fraud, this is a voter suppression effort. Oppose this bill!

Kim Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

Why are you working so hard to make it more difficult to vote yet ignoring how easy it is to buy a gun or making it easier to carry a gun.

Lisa Jackson, Mrs.

Self

Victoria, TX

Please stand for election integrity!

Maria Nicholas

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

The elections should be held on one day. The constitution says one day, not weeks, for elections. We do not need weeks of early voting which allows fraud. Voting should be in person with voter identification. The only people who should be allowed absentee ballots are military and medically unable with a doctor's signature. We should go back to voting by paper and quit using

computers and wifi.

Chelsea Kotrla

Self

Austin, TX

You can try to disguise voting restrictions in meaningless terms like "voting integrity" and "preservation of purity", but Texans aren't dumb. We can read through the lines. And trying to restrict our fellow Texans, regardless of their views, from casting their ballot to elect their representatives is the absolute least Texan thing an elected official could do. It's a sham, a disgrace, and an outrage.

Erica Lawrence

self, HR Specialist

Spring, TX

Please stop wasting time and tax payer dollars trying to make this stick. I OPPOSE this legislation and you should, too. I have worked the Election Polls in Montgomery County twice recently and I can assure you Election Workers are adequately trained and voting machines are rigorously tested prior to holding the election. HB 6 would limit the ability of election workers to protect voters against illegal disruption and harassment by watchers. It also limits the distribution of mail-in vote applications. HB 6 is using valuable time elected lawmakers don't have during a short legislative session! Please oppose this bill and move on.

Andrew Kirkpatrick

A voter

Missouri City, TX

That this has been characterized as an attempt to insure election security is absurd. Texas is consistently ranked as one of the toughest states to vote in. Anybody who votes in favor of this bill should at least have the integrity to say, I want to make it harder for people to vote. I doubt any of you, or our governor have the integrity to admit that that is your goal. We should be allowed to register on the same day we vote. We should be able to register online. We should be able to vote any day at any hour. This bill and those like it are nothing but an attempt to suppress voting. Do you have the integrity to admit it? I doubt it.

Linda Dickens

self

Austin, TX

I am deeply opposed to this restrictive and unnecessary bill. I oppose HB 6 in the strongest terms because it would unduly impact marginalized communities. Simply, it is counter to democratic ideals. Please expand voting opportunities by supporting online voter registration and same-day registration.

Andrew Davidoff

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB 6 and election integrity. As al alternate judge in 2020 I witnessed the follow:

- 1) people come to vote and told they had requested a mail in ballot when they had not
- 2) people who came to vote because they had requested a mail in ballot but had not received it
- 3) total failure of the system to count any provisional ballot cast

HB 6 is critical, we also need to add to it:

- 1) required voter identification for mail in and absentee ballots
- 2) routine maintenance to verify accuracy of voter rolls

Carol Ortiz, Ms.

Self/Retiree

Montgomery, TX

I OPPOSE HB6. It is an extremely restrictive bill which creates problems for no good reason. There has been no evidence of intentional or widespread voter fraud in Texas elections to justify such extreme measures. HB 6 would be an overreach by the state to fix a hypothetical problem which does not exist. Texas already has an effective system in place to prevent voter fraud which is very strict compared to other states. This bill creates new criminal offenses which could penalize innocent mistakes which would have detrimental effects on voter participation and erect barriers for disabled, elderly and students and just working people who are fully eligible to vote as citizens of the United States and Texas, regardless of political party or residential location. This bill should NOT be passed.

John Paul, Mr.

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I respectfully request that you vote IN FAVOR of this Bill! There is too much election fraud and irregularities! Voting should be sacrosanct. ID should be required just like buying tobacco, alcohol, and any number of other things that require proof of who you are and your age. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT! Thank you!

Barbara Sanchez

Concerned voter

Lockhart, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Every citizen has the right to vote. Stop trying to suppress voter rights! There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

William Ely

Cypress Texas Tea Party, Convention of States, HCRP Precinct Chair 124

Cypress, TX

I have been a presiding judge for the last 6 years. I have testified when Harris County went to countywide voting and the technology was not ready, e.g., poll books were not being updated correctly on election day. More and more those in charge of the election are removing the citizen, so they can control the outcome. Don't we really want more citizen involvement? In that testimony, I heard other testimony, most citizens talking about making voting more convenient. Almost all testimony was about convenience. Almost nothing about responsibility or integrity. There is known, documented fraud in Harris County. The local government refuses to investigate or take up the case because it serves them not to do so. Every invalid or illegal ballot cancels a valid, legal one. We need stronger enforcement and penalties to discourage bad actors. Any argument against this is a strong

indicator that fraud does in fact exist. If fraud does not exist, as the opposition claims, then they should not care of enforcement is strengthened and there is an increase in the penalty, including jail time. In this case, convenience is not above integrity and the legal citizen has to take on some responsibility to know where to vote and make plans to do so.

Rosalind Kokolis

Self

Bellaire, TX

I strongly support HB 6 For the following reasons:

In person voting is more secure and should be encouraged.

Election officials and government agencies should not receive private funding.

Vote by mail should be limited as it is less secure.

Vote harvesting leads to corruption.

Requiring voter ID should be added to bill.

Texas is stronger and better with secure elections.

Carol Goodwin

Self

Missouri City, TX

I hope HB6 will protect citizen vote from fraud by elected officials. This includes Gov Abbott limiting ballot boxes to one per county. This is especially important to us older, disabled citizens. In Fort Bend county, I fell backwards into a rain puddle trying to exercise my right to vote in Rosenberg. Luckily, I didn't hit my head. Ken Paxton's actions are also questionable and should be investigated. He made Texas the laughing stock of our nation. I don't know if this bill would protect us from actions of a US president such as Trump or one of his minions, DeJoy, but, citizen voting needs to be protected.

Elinor Lichtenberg, Dr.

self

Denton, TX

As a concerned voter who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote AGAINST HB6 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. HB6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. HB6 instills fear where there should be trust. It makes it more difficult for voters to navigate the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide voters with confidence that their vote will be counted. We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county elections officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible. I urge you to reject unwarranted bills like HB6.

Felicia Miyakawa

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am opposed to HB 6. I have been a voter registrar since 2017, and have seen first hand how difficult it is to register to vote. People don't have the right information and don't know the vagaries of election law. VDRs play a critical role in help people register to vote and learn about the voting process. Automatic voter registration? I'm here for it. On line registration? Absolutely. But anything that restricts access to registration and voting has no place in Texas.

Meagan Palmer

Self- stay home mom

Dallas, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Kim Farlow, Retired Teacher, Election Judge

Self as an election judge

New Braunfels, TX

Dear Texas House of Representatives Elections Committee Members,
My name is Kim Farlow and my zip code is 78130. I oppose HB 6. This bill would make voting harder for everyone, but especially for disabled and disadvantaged voters. It will increase election costs for counties and make it almost impossible to attract election judges and clerks. I have served as an election judge for several elections including the 2020 Texas Primary and Primary Runoff elections and the 2020 General Election. Voting is the bedrock of a democracy. I have witnessed the many obstacles voters must overcome to vote. My goal as an election judge has been for 80% of the registered voters in my county to vote in every election. I firmly believe that democracy is stronger when more people vote. Sadly, no election in Comal County has reached the 80% mark. HB 6 would create more problems than it solves and the authors have not even presented facts that prove such changes are needed.

Thank you for taking action on my request,

Kim Farlow

337 Oakcrest Dr.

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Keila Nichols, Dr.

self, voter, poll worker, citizen

Richardson, TX

Hi, my name is Keila and I'm a constituent from Richardson, TX. I am a regular at the polls - as a clerk and as a voting constituent.

I'm calling to ask you to support strengthening Texas' and our country's election laws to ensure our elections are secure, fair, and transparent. The election fraud in this country undermines every voter's confidence and vote.

Thank you for the work already underway. House Bill 6 and Senate Bill 7 are a good start—these bills increase poll worker access and also prohibit the insecure practice of ballot harvesting and are necessary for the security and future of our State and Country.

These bills can also be improved upon by:

1. Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

2. Routine maintenance to verify accuracy of voter rolls and new registrations

PLEASE ADD THESE 2 PROVISIONS to the legislation being worked on.

Thank you for taking my message and for all you do to save this country for our children!

Dr. Keila Nichols, D.C.

Hyun Ja Norman

Korean American Voters League

Katy, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Hyunja Norman, and I am here to represent Korean American Voters League (KAVL) in opposition of HB6.

Korean American Voters League is a community-oriented organization which focuses on civic participation for Korean seniors and the first time voters with English translation who need assistance to cast their ballots because Harris County does not offer Korean-translated ballots. During the Early Voting Days of every election KAVL holds the Korean American Early Voting Day at Trini Mendenhall Community Center in Spring Branch Harris County where many Korean Americans live and have businesses.

Our community members know that they will get the assistance they need if they come to vote where we have the Korean American Early Voting Day. Every election, I serve as one of the voter assistants. When a Korean voter comes to vote, they look for our booth and request assistance.

At this point, HB6 would require that the voter assistants would have to fill in a form as outlined in Sections 4.01 through 4.06, and 5.05. When our seniors come to vote in a bus with 20 people together, our voter assistants will need to fill out the form for each of the 20 people. It will take much longer and is much more difficult for everyone who is waiting in the line, and for the clerks running the elections. Also, if non-English speaking voters do not get the assistance they need, they may not be able to fill out ballots accurately or may be confused with the process. Voters who experience this tend not to vote in the future. Our work allows them to cast their ballots and encourages voters to come back and vote in future elections.

Additionally, our seniors struggle with voting due to language access, and sometimes inability to go to the polls due to health reasons. Last year more people voted because they had more voting options, like vote by mail. Eligible voters who are over 65 years old got their application for Ballot by mail from the Harris County Clerk's office. They simply verified their information, signed, added postage, and sent it back. It was so convenient for older voters.

The bill also prevents local election officials from proactively and accurately informing voters about their voting options and will make it difficult for seniors who do not speak English as their first language to apply for a ballot by mail. We know from last year that if seniors have options to vote by mail, they will take advantage of it. They should be informed of their options to vote proactively, like they were last year.

Under HB6, the integrity of our elections and health of our democracy will suffer due to the increased barriers to voter assistance and the prevention of local election officials from accurately informing voters about their voting options, including vote by mail. I urge you to vote NO on HB6 to preserve our ability to help our community and give seniors the options they need to vote. Thank you

Brenda Jurgens, Retired individual

Self - retired

ALEDO, TX

Who came up with this hair brained Bill because I don't think Briscoe Cain did it by himself. This is just about as bad as the '19 Bill not allowing vans/buses to take people, like my retired/disabled GOP parents who count on taking a bus to DROP OFF THEIR mail in ballot from their nursing home. Go ahead & pass this stupid bill & watch GOP votes go down. Even if we can't stand in line, there is joy going to a drop off ballot location & having 1/county is just STUPID!

Do NOT pass this Bill or I will not vote for another GOP candidate!

Thomas Moran, Territory Manager

Self

Kaufman, TX

I oppose this bill, it is full of nonsense and does not represent the true essence of our democracy. Motion to dismiss this bill. Call me if you have questions.

gwen gabriel

Self Retired

Spring Branch, TX

Opposed.

Unnecessarily makes voting more difficult for many people, and there is no reason for it. Fraud has not been an issue.

Estelle Heard

Self

Katy, TX

I am against this bill and the restricting of voting rights and access.

Barbara Jones, Teacher

Self

Houston, TX

Make no changes

Carolina Valladares

Self

Spring, TX

Stop voter suppression

Tanya Seals

Self

Cypress, TX

I will support legislature that EXPANDS and protects voting rights. I do not support voter suppression legislation. Let the voice of the people be heard!

Mary Favret

-- please select a prefix --Myself

The Woodlands, TX

This bill will make it difficult for all Texans to vote, in addition to creating confusion and reducing overall voter turnout for all parties.

Mary Wilmore

self

Austin, TX

As Americans it is our inherent right to vote. Making it harder for people to vote is unconstitutional. This bill seems to target those that are already disenfranchised to a certain extent by life circumstances - they work to jobs so they have a hard time making it to polls during regular hours, they don't have transportation so they can't easily make it to a poll far from them, etc. I would like every legal Texas voter to be able to easily cast their ballot.

Kelsey Kling

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. While I agree that we must prevent fraud at the ballot box, this bill accomplishes nothing so much as further disenfranchising voters. The is a case of the "cure" being far worse than the sickness it seeks to alleviate.

Stephen Luce, Mr.

Self

Arlington, TX

Cain was a lawyer filing and making untrue frivolous claims of widespread voter fraud by the former president. This bill is a fraud on Texas, Texans and our State and Federal Constitution.

Cain participated in inciting the insurrection. Has anyone confirmed he was there and participated? I hear he or his team were sanctioned for the groundless claims made in court to steal the election.

HB 6 is evidence the GOP Christian Nationalist has no strategies or policies to help protect the rights of POC and poor, sick or infirmed.

I oppose this bill. A majority of Texans oppose this bill. History will judge Cain as a weak, despicable smarmy weasel. He is not an ally of justice and voting rights. Reject him and his co-conspirator.

Shayla Wyche

Self

Katy, TX

I am Against HB6

Jewel Nalls-Johnson

Self

Cypress, TX

Jewel Nalls Johnson

Janet Jansse

Self, CPA (VDR)

Austin, TX

I support expanded voter access to the ballot box including online voter registration, longer early voting period & expander hours that the polls are open. The more Texans vote, the better our democracy. This bill does the opposite. It restricts voting by lawful Texans. The state should stop trying to discourage local officials from making voting accessible to all Texans and should concentrate on fixing our electric grid and fixing our school finance system. I am a Texan that was without power for 100+ hours and am asking that you concentrate on our real problems instead of the imaginary issue of voter fraud. It is virtually nonexistent despite many efforts using our tax dollars to try and uncover it. Please stop wasting our money and start doing what is right for the people of Texas. We deserve officials that are fighting for us. Thank you for your time.

Tracy Coleman, Dr

Self

Cypress, TX

Republicans can't win elections without voter suppression and gerrymandering! You all should be ashamed of yourself. Ken Paxton is a criminal, Ted Cruz does not represent Texans and we are all waiting for Abbott dropped the ball with Covid

Brad Kears, Mr

Self

Huffman, TX

Please end drive thru voting and make all voters show identification.

Stephen Rupp

Self

Spring Branch, TX

I oppose house bill 6. Texas restricts voter participation and is the most expensive in the country. HR 6 would only make elections more restrictive and expensive and increase partisanship at the polls!
No to HR 6

Jeremy Tarpley
Self/engineering
Cypress, TX

The 2020 election was a sham. We must ensure that election integrity is restored and we are able to validate voters and votes.

Shanya Blueitt
Move on
Katy, TX

This is important for me to be able to have the opportunity exercise my right to vote.

Thaer Mahmoud
Self, engineer
Richmond, TX

I believe we should voting as easy as possible including drive through, no reason mailing ballots and exploring internet voting. Don't stop drive through voting.

Lindsey Clark
Self - concerned voter
Odessa, TX

Every eligible Texan should be able to register to vote and vote easily. There is no widespread voter fraud in Texas unless you count the few Republicans who have been charged and insinuating it is just adding to the long list of the things the GOP lies about to stay in power. Texas is already one of the most voter suppressed states in the country. As a lifelong Texan I strongly oppose HR6.

LaRonda Y. Ashford, Dr
Self
Cypress, TX

Vote Against HB6

James Calaluca
Self, teacher
Arlington, TX

As a teacher who serves an underprivileged student base, the idea that almost all of the families I work with would suffer difficulties attempting to exercise their legal right to vote disgusts and alarms me. All adult citizens deserve the right to vote for those governing their lives. Not everyone, for a variety of reasons, is capable of voting in person during the day. This shouldn't eliminate their votes. Please see reason and do not pass this egregious bill oppressing American citizens who want and deserve to

vote.

Anna Kroese

Self

Wimberley, TX

Secure elections are the cornerstone for running a successful democratic republic. If we can't count on elections to be secure, then faith in the whole system will erode. A system reliant on buy in from the masses can't function without the faith of the people. Ensuring secure elections should be a top priority especially given the rampant fraud that has been uncovered and verified in recent elections.

Johnny James, Retired Veteran

Retired Veteran

Katy, TX

I know why you may choose to remove this bill that allow people who work for a living like me, dust to dawn, that can not get out to voting booth at a normal time. It is wrong to remove a bill that was first put in place to support the very reason you want to remove. This to me has nothing to do with the bill but everything to do with an idealistic agenda to limit or remove votes that carry a strong message to people like Trump and his personal agenda.

I have given 21 years to this country for a belief of equality for all. Many of the politicians that is in office that is about to vote on this bill care nothing about the rights of people but what is in it for them and there personal agenda. This has been shown over the past four years under a government that was not for all people but for a select few.

If you vote against this bill it tells the people that you don't care what they have to go through. Their vote means nothing to you. Before I leave from this, I have one question. IF YOUR GOOD OLE BOY TRUMP HAD WON, would you care about removing or changing this bill? Vote how you fill but we the people are watching TEXAS is changing times of the boot on the neck days are over. SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Shelly Spann

Self

Sugar land, TX

Against this bill. Say no to voter suppression

Afwandi Karunwi

NAACP

Cypress, TX

I'm against it

Mallory Richard

Self

Katy, TX

AGAINST HB6 because it amounts to voter suppression

Ruth Klein

Self retired

Dallas, TX

I have felt it was important to work as an election clerk in past elections as my civic duty. I worry that this bill would put me at risk of being threatened with litigation if I make an honest mistake. I doubt I would risk serving if this bill passes.

Nana Booker

Self. Fine art dealer

Houston, TX

This bill is clearly designed to suppress voting throughout the State of Texas. My husband, who is 93, and I, at 74, have voted in every federal, State, and local election since we reached the age of majority, so we have literally participated in our democracy for many decades. We have stood in long lines, we have driven miles, we have voted in the cold, in the heat. We have left our own businesses to vote, we have given our employees paid time off to vote however they pleased, and we have studied the practices in other countries as we traveled the world. We have voted for Republicans and Democrats. I have served in City of Houston government, and as an Honorary Consul for Australia. My husband served in the military and as Assistant Secretary of the US Army.

In short, we are active participants in our country's democracy. We have voted by mail for several years, and in 2020, we were so frustrated by the State's attempts to make that difficult for us, that we sent our ballots by registered mail with receipts. We called in regularly to ensure our ballots were received.

IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT SOME STATE LEGISLATORS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DISENFRANCHISE US AND OTHERS WHO VOTE BY MAIL OR NEED ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE. WE WILL BE WATCHING THE VOTE CAREFULLY, AND WILL BE INVESTING HEAVILY IN CANDIDATES WHO VOTE AGAINST THIS BLATANT ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS VOTING IN TEXAS!

Nisha Allen

Self

Baytown, TX

Do not pass! We need voting right and there was no fraud in this election. Fraud was never proved in the election.

Gwendolyn Robinson, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

I am AGAINST this voting restriction action.

Edgar Anderson, Mr.

self

Sugar Land, TX

You have so much contempt for your constituents that you're trying cloak voter suppression in the guise of "election integrity."

But you know what this bill is really about and so do I. It's about making it harder to vote. It cannot possibly be about "preventing fraud" because there's no fraud to prevent -- except farcical Republican bills like this one. You should be ashamed that this even came to the floor of the Texas House. If you vote for this bill, you will prove -- as if more proof was needed -- that Texas Republicans are enemies of the people.

Regenia Kendrick

Self

Cypress, TX

Support voter integrity to prevent voter fraud

Kimmy Robinson

Self, Legal Assistant

Farmers Branch, TX

I oppose HB 6. For the November 2020 Election, I worked as a clerk for early voting, and as an Alternate Judge on Election Day. As both a clerk and an alternate judge, I witnessed numerous people who came to vote and found out they were not registered. There was confusion that presenting the State of Texas issued photo identification was the same as being registered to vote. Young people and people newly arrived in Texas were offered the chance to vote provisionally as an alternative, but those provisional votes were not likely to be counted. It is my understanding that Texans are supposed to be given the option to register when they obtain or renew their state drivers licenses. It is also my understanding that this has not been happening. I also saw voters who had moved from one county to another without updating their voter registration to reflect their current county of residence. These voters should have been provided an on the spot opportunity to update their registration and vote in their county of residence. There was no way for me as a clerk or judge to know how these individuals would have voted, but what I do know is that opportunities to increase the number of ballots cast for both Democratic and Republican candidates were missed. Instead of implementing more restrictions on voting, which based on my personal experience already exist, the Texas Legislature should be doing everything it can to make voting easier.

Bethany Pendleton

Self

Austin, TX

e: I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Eva Silverfine Ott

Self, freelance editor

San Marcos, TX

"Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office spent 22,000 hours looking for voter fraud and uncovered just 16 cases of false addresses on registration forms, according to The Houston Chronicle. Nearly 17 million voters are registered in Texas" (<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/texas-gop-launches-avalanche-bills-curtail-voting-n1260747>). The proposed bill is not about election security but instead limiting access to voting--voter suppression. This is anti-democratic, and I am truly frightened by one party's willingness to undermine democracy in order to hold onto power. We need a system that allows all citizens to see themselves as stakeholders in our democracy, not a system designed to exclude certain demographics. This bill is wrong. I ask you to demonstrate integrity by opposing it.

Midge Epstein, Ms.

Self and retired

Corpus Christi, TX

I oppose this bill. I experienced poll watchers intimidating voters in my polling place. I oppose restricting the very appropriate activity of people helping others to vote. I oppose standardizing policies across counties that are very different in size. Counties should have the ability to enact policies that work for them. I expect my representative and representatives to protect all voters right to vote. This is a manufactured “problem” — only 16 people were prosecuted by the AG even after more than 20,000 hours trying to find voter fraud. Please do not let this voter suppression happen. Thank you.

Elizabeth Weedman

Myself

AUSTIN, TX

The bill is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications. In 2020, TDP mailed 1 million Texas senior citizens applications for vote by mail to help them vote safely during the pandemic -- and the Trump campaign sent these applications to their voters, too. That could be criminal if the Republicans have their way. At the same time, they would ban local election officials from proactively sending these applications to voters, leaving seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot.

John Hicks

Self

Dallas, TX

There has been no significant voter fraud proven in the last election to affect the results. This bill is aimed at voter suppression.

Tawana Smith

Self

BAYTOWN, TX

I am against HB6!

Janice Bracey

Self

Baytown, TX

I am totally against mail in voting. I also believe proof of citizenship should be considered.

Frances Karlsrud

self retired

Spring, TX

Please vote in favor. This bill is a step in the right direction.

Tiffany Gatson

Self

Katy, TX

I disagree with prohibiting distribution of unsolicited mailing ballots. Many in the state of Texas do not know how to vote, where to vote, or are disabled and unable to.

Maria Hatton

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is crazy and it goes against our democracy. What are you doing going back to Jim Crow laws? Are you going to ask us to pay a poll tax next? This is nothing short of voter intimidation. Who's going to want to vote? People are going to be afraid to go to the polls regardless because they won't understand other than how everything will be followed by a penalty. There's been no fraud other than in the imagination of the Republicans. This bill doesn't prevent fraud it just intimidates voters and poll workers. The big lie needs to stop. These bills are just in response to Trump losing the election. Sore losers.

Cynthia Siegel

Cynthia Siegel, CPA

Bellaire, TX

I cannot think of anything that is more critical to our country and state than the integrity of our elections. If Americans do not trust that their elections are secure, then that undermines our belief in our federal and state government. I ask that you support HB 6 to preserve the integrity of our elections and increase the penalties for anyone found violating such law. Additionally, I ask that you require voter identification for all votes - whether cast in person or by mail-in or absentee ballot. The excuse that the requirement of voter identification suppresses votes is a false narrative. You cannot open a bank account, cash a check, fly on a plane or ride a bus without some sort of identification. Voting is a privilege and a responsibility as an American citizen. Taking steps to create law that promotes transparency and integrity with our elections can only be a good thing.

Lavonna Craddock

Constituent

Richmond, TX

This Bill is another way to suppress democracy. It should be allowed to make every way possible to hear the constituents voices by all ways necessary. I feel this bill is being introduced as a way to deter the democratic party from getting out to vote. Shame on this bill!

Sharmia Jones, Mrs

Self/Educator

Richmond, TX

I am against HB6. Please keep all voting rights and freedoms available to every citizen.

Cheryl Thompson-Draper

self

Hallettsville, TX

Thank you for your service to our state and country.

I reside in rural south central near-coastal Texas in Lavaca County . My House Representative is Ben Leman HD 13) and my State Senator is Lois Kolkhorst (SD 18)

I am IN SUPPORT of the efforts of State Representative Briscoe Cain's House Bill 6 (HB 6)

It will Encourage in-person voting, which is more secure- it is our privilege and right to do so.

It will Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications which only goes to confuse people - as they still come into the polling locations and try to vote in person- not understanding what they mailed in is actually their vote. I personally do not like mail in voting but realize for the homebound or elderly in nursing homes that is their only way of voting. And they request their ballots!. But other than that- no one should be mailing out ballots to everyone in the county.

It Bans ballot harvesting- No one needs to help someone else to vote unless it is the person that accompanies that person to the polling location. Mail in ballots are fraught with ballot harvesting problems- people going to the homes to collect the mail in ballots (and then destroying them) or Or helping especially the elderly to fill out their ballots- by heavily suggesting who to vote for!

It will Increase poll watcher access (improved transparency) Poll watchers are very important in successful security of an election by watching everything going on in the polling location..

This is a commendable start by the House, and can further be improved upon by:

Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

Constant and Routine scheduled verification of (purging) voter rolls and new registrations

Our state needs to make very secure our citizens votes and election integrity or we will go down the road that a few other states have gone and have many election issues with no one believing the outcomes at all!.

God bless you all for the committee work and your diligence to maintain Election Integrity in the GREAT STATE of TEXAS!

Cheryl Thompson-Draper

LaChaundre Gatson

Self/ Project Management

Baytown, TX

I am AGAINST this bill

Mildred Price

None

Baytown, TX

It should be simple as possible to cast your vote maybe you can't stand in line outside maybe you need to drive through how whatever it takes to get you to get out and vote it should be made easy

Michael Alberts

self--electrical engineer

Houston, TX

I support this bill and urge its passage to help secure election integrity. The following improvements should be considered: (a) Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots, and (b) routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.

Sheshonie Harris

Self / homemaker

Katy, TX

I am against HB6, it is an effort to reduce equal opportunity voting. I agree fraudulent activity of any kind is wrong and if there is evidence of such, should be investigated. This bill attempts to limit human civil rights and that is also wrong.

Judith Lee

Self, Texas educator

Beaumont, TX

Law changes in Texas are reflective of needs. The attorney general, Ken Paxton spent 22,000 hours investigating voter fraud and uncovered 16 cases all connected to listing the wrong address. Why are legislators legislating a non-problem? Why must Texans be subjected to archaic practices such as reduced access, reduced means to turn in ballots, and even longer voting lines due to reduced voting time frames and venues all represented in HB6? Other states have successfully utilized mail in ballots and a myriad of increased access points this bill seeks to kill without fraud problems. We DO NOT HAVE A VOTER FRAUD problem in Texas! We do have a bill in front of the legislature that will inhibit the ability of many Texans to vote. Texans who are hourly workers, disabled, less formally educated, lack personal transportation, and are poor will be negatively impacted by a bill supposedly introduced to overcome a problem Texas does not have! When did Texas legislators decide that beating down the less fortunate was worthy of a new Texas law? I have worked as an educator in Texas for 23 years. The majority of that time, I served low socioeconomic and ESL students and families. These are the people this bill will discriminate against. It is very apparent that this bill is designed to decrease voter activity. This is not what our state should represent. Texas and Texans are better than this. Do not think that marginalized residents are less worthy of voting. My own grandfather had very little formal education yet carved out a life and a living in the oil industry. As this bill is written, he would find it very, very difficult to vote. Many of my former students' families would find voting prohibitive under this bill. Make no mistake, enacting this bill may disenfranchise the voters legislators deem unworthy of the vote, but those of us who can overcome the obstacles will vote out legislators who vote to enact this reprehensible voter suppression piece of legislation (misappropriately titled election integrity and the purity of the ballot box). Judith Lee

Mary Margaret Floyd

myself

Fort Worth, TX

I am 80 years old. Being able to vote COMFORTABLY by mail or not standing in a long line or by being able to conveniently reach a polling place and vote in privacy all matters to me. Please do not vote for any aspect of this bill that limits the possibility of limiting these needs. The ability to vote in this manner should be available to all eligible voters and I respectfully request that the Texas legislature do all possible and necessary to make that a given. We hopefully will never again have a pandemic but we will always want to be able to know that all of us have had the right to freely and comfortably vote. Thank you!

Sylvia Beasley Morris

NAACP

Richmond, TX

We have to stand up and fight back the republicans and all of these people that are trying to suppress the voting rights, especially when they are trying to keep minorities from voting!

audrey fisher

self

san antonio, TX

i would first ask that the author of this bill to present the number of voters who have been dead at the time that their ballot was cast. The remainder of this section is a administrative drive of no consequence if their is no evidence of true voter fraud by people who have died prior to voting. That should not include people who were more than alive and well when the mailed in the Ballot that can be distributed 30 days prior to Election Day.

Chasing the number of spoiled ballot may be laudable, but ONLY IF the counts on Electronic Voting Machines do not match and / or do not account for these ballots at the end of the day. This appears to be chasing windmills and only placing a heavier burden on those who manage the elections

I absolutely object to the degree to which Poll Watchers have been elevated. Anyone who can by taking a simple test can be present in a Polling Center and can behave in any way that is not "election fraud" misses the entire point. Poll Watchers should not be able to challenge the majority of voters and yet that seems to have vanished as Election Staff have no "right" to control these individuals in any way.

This legislation indicates that a Poll Watcher who may have limited knowledge about elections rules takes precedence over the Election Judge.

Then the new rules for a person who assists a voter is held to the same standard and more actually than a voter, why in the world would it be necessary for any voter to have to document why they needed assistance and who is going to judge if it is necessary to have an assistant and why and how are they to submit any proof - unless of course they are only acceptable as a "voter". This is absolute nonsense as most of this is ascribed in law. How are you going to prove that - or is this just another attempt at intimidation. It sure sounds like if a voter dares to say thank you to an assistant that action will become sort of crime. (off to compensate). This appears to be intimidation, pure and simple

Next this legislation really wants to end the ABBM process. No one can ask another person at the Senior Center if they want an ABBM - that is solicitation - REALLY? A person who wants seniors in their community to be safe and vote from home will be criminalized for caring about everyone in their community. Voter Registration Efforts, just like ABBM effort are non-partisan activities. WHO is going to remember, who started a simple conversation: I am going to the Library to pick up an ABBM form, would you like me to pick one up for you as well - That is the crime for which this bill will cause.

You have created the perfect Catch-22. No one can talk to anyone about ABBM forms and certainly an if an EVC sends out information to a voter about an error to their old address, they too should be in trouble

The rest is saying that you, Mr. Cain, are doing everything in your power to assure that voters are uneducated on the issues. Shame on you.

Linda Williams

Self/acct office manager

Katy, TX

It's up to we, the people, to never go through another travesty like the 2020 election process

LISA MATHEWS

Self and a business owner

Richmond, TX

I am AGAINST Hb6, bill which insites voter suppression. It is oppressive in nature and intent.

Stefan Haag, Mr.

self professor of government

Austin, TX

This bill constitutes voter suppression. It attempts to solve a problem which is nearly non-existent. Please vote against this bill.

Gerard Fanner

Myself

Katy, TX

We should be making it easier to vote. The more people who vote, the better it is for our democracy. This is America, NO ONE, should have to wait hours to vote. Expanded days for early voting, an abundance of polling places and voting machines, mail in voting. Stop with the Jim Crow suppression tactics.

Taylor Cyrus

Self

Richmond, TX

Election integrity is by far the most important thing in this country.

Autumn Tonic

Self

Katy, TX

I object to this bill. People work hard and deserve their constitutional right to vote. By cutting down times and how you vote will hurt my community.

Hank Hill, Mr

Strickland Propane

Richardson, TX

The mere thought that anyone would propose a bill of this nature, a bill to limit our freedoms and restrain our ability to vote is disgusting, it's an affront to freedom and an insult to America.

Tricia Berry

Self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Chelsea Hernandez, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

HB 6 is a fear-mongering tactic to suppress the voters of Texas. This state is 46th at voter turnout in the country which just shows how bad voter accessibility and ability is in Texas. As a 4th generation Texan, I am offended by the continued criminalization of voters by Republicans and this bill. As a voter since I was 18 (2002), I have never had any problems at the polls even during the pandemic. Voters, Poll Watchers, Poll Workers, and Volunteers seem to follow the law and are very thorough with verifying the identities of voters. There is no visible threat of fraud or mishandling of votes. The polls are a welcoming place and operating in an orderly fashion. Voters should not be fearful of practicing their democracy. Texas politicians should be focusing their efforts on providing good and reliable information to voters on where they can vote and how the machines work. This state is growing every day, with people migrating here from across the country and the world. We need more voting locations to accommodate the increasing population. Let's show the U.S. and the world what a first-class democratic system looks like by being a leading example like we have always done and should continue to do.

I kindly ask the Senators to vote against HB 6. Thank you.

Osei Adams

Self

Katy, TX

This bill limits the time I can go to vote. Plus it will eliminate drive through which is helpful to the elderly. Please don't pass this bill. Thanks

Tangela Fields

Self

Richmond, TX

I vote AGAINST HB6

pamela mcnelly

Salutation

Cedar Park, TX

I am not in favor of making voting harder for Texans. The photo ID law disenfranchised my mother a few years ago. She decided to stop driving and we did not realize that her driver's license had expired. I did not want to emphasize this fact at the polling place because this was rather a sore subject for her, and it was too late to apply for a mail in ballot. Also, I am in my early 60's and I want to have access to mail in voting because I feel safest at home. Respectfully.

Paul Laury

Self

Richmond, TX

Given that there has not been any substantially verified fraud in Texas elections it would appear to be counterproductive to place legal impediments that would potentially limit voter participation. Any impediments will hinder the fundamentals of democracy and should not be permitted.

Kay Conrad

Self

Hockley, TX

I expect Kevin Brady AND John Cornyn to vote on these EXACT matters and ALL my local officials in my district, county, all levels!! Perfect Bill I am behind,100%!! Common sense!

Adam Washington

Self

Baytown, TX

I'm totally against this bill, and I think it's absurd that you would want to limit or disenfranchise minorities from voting opportunities.

Darrell Evins, Mr

Self

Angleton, TX

I completely agree with this bill. I was quite disgusting to watch the last election laws changed at the last minute without oversight. Harsh repercussions should be dealt out to the organizers of election fraud.

Carl Gray, Sr

Naacp

Baytown, TX

Yed

Natalie Henriques

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I am against this bill, this is clearly voter suppression disguised as "voter fraud" prevention. This myth is the reason there was an insurrection at the US Capitol and instead of focusing on facts and the truth officials in Texas would like to return to Jim Crow era tactics. This is shameful, we should be expanding voting rights and access not making it harder. Please vote NO.

Robin Malachi, Mr.

No organization

Katy, TX

I support early voting to include drive-in

Carlton Goodly

Self

Katy, TX

I've read the HB6 bill and while the bill states the act is to preserve the purity of the ballot process; the content goes on to contradict this very notion. Many Americans have different constraints preventing them from meeting ballot deadlines due to working hours, caring for family members, lack of transportation, marginal income, etc. it is the direct responsibility of lawmakers to consider 'All' Americans when considering legislation changes that affect All Americans. The voter process should be one of the easiest executed American rights, encouraged by all sides regardless of belief or political affiliation. Unfortunately, the American people are having to fight to preserve our simple freedoms when more focus should be on homelessness, poverty, failed educational institutions, systemic racism, etc. We are failing the next generation and the future of our country. We need LEADERS who stand for righteousness and hold high moral ground even if that comes with sacrifice. I leave you with prayers and hopes for a better tomorrow. God Bless

Mona McAfee, Dr

Self

Burleson, TX

Elections - one vote per legal US citizen. This should be intrinsically obvious. Keep the ballot free from fraud or even possible fraud: signature verification; address verification; citizenship verification; time/date - on time and not late (giving those we would create fraud a chance to fill in or "catch up"; voter rolls cleaned up; illegal aliens purged. As citizens, this is our right, our duty and our privilege—One legal citizen- who pays taxes- one vote.

Jane Moran

Self/Certified Financial Planner, retired and Real Estate investor

Gilchrist, TX

Representative Cain - Thank you for your excellent leadership on this critical matter. I believe you are here for just a time as this!! The key areas of opportunity for cheating center around Absentee Ballots of all sorts.

- A voter should have to request/testify for each election in which they are eligible to vote - no more annual ballot.
- Additionally, electronic poll books also open the door to internet connectivity and potential nefarious activity. They, and Electronic voting machines are asking for trouble.
- Clean up the Voter Registration rolls!
- PROSECUTE VIOLATORS with meaningful punishments!

-And get The League of Women Voters OUT of the voting business in Texas. 60+ counties use them for the voter pages.

The people are behind you and on your side. Time to fight fire with fire - we got one chance to get this done well. Thank you.

Cheryl Smith

NAACP

Houston, TX

Do not eliminate Texas drive through voting. STOP VOTER SUPPRESSION !!!

Regina Shadle Nolan

Self

Houston, TX

I stand AGAINSt HB6. Republicans are pushing the dangerous, debunked myth of voter fraud to suppress votes of minorities. If the facts tell us anything, Texas politicians would do best to act reasonably instead: stop the alarmism and respect Texans' access to the ballot. We should be making voting easier, fair and accessible. I LOVE drive through voting in Houston.

Ana Dison

Self

Austin, TX

Voter suppression, anti democratic legislation designed to suppress voters based on ethnicity, race, gender, socioeconomic status

Tom Nobis

self - retired

Houston, TX

Chairman Cain and members of the Committee
Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony

I am Tom Nobis a retired activist from Harris County.

I am For the bill as it would address several issues that exist to correct Election Integrity.
it would:

Encourage in-person voting, which is more secure

Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications

Bans ballot harvesting

Increase poll watcher access (improved transparency)

Additions that would improve the bill include:

Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

These additions could be entered through either other bills specific to these items, a committee substitute, or amended on the floor.

Thank you for providing my thoughts

Sincerely

Tom Nobis

Patricia Sumrow

Voter Deputy Registrar

Frisco, TX

As a volunteer deputy registrar, I am committed to helping Texans register to vote and make their voice heard HB6 inserts unnecessary roadblocks to this important civic responsibility. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. HB 6 makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them the confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020, and we all celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject this unwarranted bill.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Paul Osbourn

self

Bryan, TX

I agree with the measures presented in HB 6. The requirement of serial numbers should be part of voting; we serialize everything else of significance.

I believe election integrity essential to a free society.

The efforts to make voting more convenient have, unfortunately, elections vulnerable to fraud.

We are now seeing election investigations across America because of suspected fraud. We cannot let this happen in Texas, Texas should be leading the country in election integrity, and HB 6 is a good first step.

While I believe election harvesting needs more detail, perhaps a clear example of what voter registration should look like would be helpful. I support this action.

Wayne Davis

self

San Antonio, TX

I was a first time voter in 2018 at the age of 29. Up until then, I thought it was a waste of time and that my vote didn't matter. My parents voted when I was a kid, but it took them hours of waiting in line. In 2018, I drove down to my local library and waited in line for over an hour before entering a crowded room and casting my ballot. The experience wasn't inspiring. In 2020, in order

protect my families health and safety, I decided not to go vote in those conditions. Luckily, a friend of mine told me about early voting at UTSA. They had a large ballroom that had plenty of voting machines and lots of space to stay socially distant. Because of early voting, I was able to safely vote in the 2020 election. Because of the large amount of voting machines, and ample space, it took me less than 20 minutes to vote. It was an inspiring experience. As a voter, HB 6 would take away hours from early voting and make it more difficult for me to cast my ballot. Also, the poll watcher provisions in this bill would not allow the poll workers to remove a poll watcher who is intimidating a voter. Elections are supposed to be free and fair. Vote no on this bill and keep it that way.

Paulette Chargois, US citizen

America

Katy, TX

This should not past

Amelia Oen

self

Georgetown, TX

Of course our elections should be secure but we shouldn't prevent valid voters from making their voices heard. There has been NO appreciable voter fraud, therefore this bill is an attempt to limit ballot access by intimidation. This bill is a sham, pushed by a government afraid of the voters.

Carolyn Simien, Ms

Self

Cypress, TX

I believe that this bill will restrict low income eligible voters from getting to the voting polls. Not all voters have readily available transportation and may have to ask others for a ride. I live in the county but not in the city and have a special needs adult daughter that doesn't drive but can vote. We should make voing accessible for ALL eligible voters that wants to vote. Thanks

Linda Moore

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Julie Fleming

Texas Alliance for Retired Americans, self - retired

Austin, TX

This bill is about creating criminal offenses, a blatant intimidation tactic along with everything else to make it harder for elderly, disabled, low wage earners and other poor people to except use their right to vote. I / we strongly oppose this bill.

Candye Anderson

Self

Beaumont, TX

We should do nothing to make it more difficult. Anyone who wants should be able to vote by mail. People should be able register and vote at the same time as long as they provide current valid ID. the state should do everything possible to make voting accessible to elderly and disabled individuals. That is what our country was built on. It's time our state set a positive example of inclusion for the rest of the U. S. I'm tired of Texas being a joke.

Corina Kellam

Self, marketer

Pflugerville, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

Elaine Sanchez

Self

Manhaca, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? I want no bill and no law that suppresses voter rights to freely vote.

Chuck Reynolds, Dr.

Myself and my family, Company Founder and Research Scientist

Austin, TX

I regret that I am unable to testify in person tomorrow to voice my deep concerns about HB 6. I grew up in a family that took voting and democracy very seriously. My grandfather and uncle both served in the Texas House, and some of my most precious memories of my mother are tagging along with her as a child while she participated in innumerable campaign and get out the vote efforts. I am shocked and dismayed to find that HB 6 attempts to make some of the pro-democratic voter outreach activities we engaged in outright criminal offenses. I am also shocked to see the callous and invasive provisions with respect to persons with disabilities. What business does anyone have questioning the reasons a voter might need to vote absentee or by mail, much less requiring a description of the disability and a note from a physician. My family has first-hand experience with the many indignities regularly imposed on persons with disabilities. Putting people who routinely experience every manner of difficulty in their personal lives in the position of running yet another gauntlet just to be able to exercise their right to vote borders on cruelty.

Finally, if a 65 year-old can vote by mail safely then so can a college student, or anyone else for that matter. Similarly, why is a vote cast at midnight any less legitimate than a vote cast at noon? Please end this nonsensical attack on our most fundamental right.

Respectfully,

Chuck Reynolds

Sandy vanGoethem
(Self-phone owner)
Dallas, TX

VOTE AGAINST HB 6!

I support any efforts to return the integrity of our elections. The 2020 election was a farce making a mockery of our entire political system.

Voter ID should be federally mandated so that all states are required to allow ONLY proven citizens to elect our leaders.

We need to allow mail-in ballots that have been requested by voters who have provided proper US citizenship identification. All voters are entitled to a state identification card, which can be applied for at any time up to thirty days before an election.

Graham Cambrice
Self Engineer
Cypress, TX

This bill is restricting voting rights and will ultimately hurts texans of both parties. What makes a democracy great is the ability of it's citizens to have access to vote.

Sidney Hollingsworth
Self / Concerned Voter
Austin, TX

Vote against HB 6. I, a constituent, want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills. HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers.

Mary Carder, Mrs.
self
Dripping Springs, TX

As a Texas and an USA citizen, I am deeply concerned how the federal legislative bodies are doing away with our rights and freedoms.
HB 6 must be passed in order to help preserve the interior our elections.

Toshia Cowins
Self
Baytown, TX

Since Texas already has a very secure election process and there was no evidence of fraud in the 2020 election, this legislation is not necessary. All this bill will do is suppress votes of minority voters. With the advancements in technology we should be moving toward more accessibility to voting instead of moving back to Jim Crow times.

Emily Dieringer
Concerned voter
Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours, and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Cynthia King-Ryne
Self
Plano, TX

Why is Texas trying to intimidate people from their right to vote? Stop it. STRONGLY OPPOSE

Clayton Ellington
Self / retired
Baytown, TX

Every citizen entitled to vote should get a chance to vote, but mail-in voting can be corrupted far too easily. Drive through voting can be just as abused as mail-in voting. Voter ID is a good thing. Please do not make it easier for unscrupulous people to subvert a simple process. If citizens don't want to come out and vote, don't vote.
Voting for our representatives should take an effort on our part. They are our fellow citizens that we are placing our trust and faith in to help maintain communication between our federal government and state or local governments. To maintain policies with foreign nations. These people that assume this heavy burden do not have to be perfect, but should always represent the citizens of this city, county, state and out Nation. Please do not make it any easier to abuse our rights with the modern technology of today.

Barbara Mills
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 6 which appears to be an effort to further suppress Texans ability to vote. This bill increases barriers to voting and adds punitive measures to those with disabilities or to people of color. Texas is one of the worst states for access and voting ease. These types of tactics are reminiscent of the Jim Crow laws of last century.
It also seems a waste of time to bring such bills when there are real pressing issues of hunger, electrical grid failures, and health that are affecting millions of Texans.
I urge you to vote No on HB 6.
Thank you

Sravana krishna
self
Southlake, TX

Please stop this and protect the basic tenet of this great democracy. Please let people vote and don't disenfranchise them.

randy elliott

Self

Comfort, TX

I support this bill. Maybe it can bring back election integrity.

Maureen Riebel

Personal

Boerne, TX

Hello ~ I support HB6 coming to the floor tomorrow - March 25th. I believe that each legal citizen of the United States and Texas is entitled to one vote - with a form of photo identification. Due to circumstances that have happened in the last election - these changes mentioned in HB 6 are necessary. We need election integrity and purity of the ballot box. Anyone who participates in fraudulent activity should be prosecuted. The voter roles need to be cleaned up. There needs to be restrictions on mail-in-voting. Voting needs to be fair. There should not be drive -in voting - since there won't be a pandemic. Nor should there be drop boxes. If someone is disabled, over seas, or a student - who can't be present - they should produce documentation as to their absence. This bill will provide equal rights for all Texans voting - no matter, color, race or creed. Rules don't scare people nor suppress them, but clarify how the process should run safely and securely.

Chloe Scarborough

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Brenda Jackson

Self Secondary Teacher

Sugar Land, TX

Please vote FOR HB 6

Brittmarie Perez

Constituent as Self

Austin, TX

I'm a disabled constituent. I urge you to vote against HB 6. Shame on Cain. HB 6 would inflict egregious harm to the democratic process.

Steven Riebel, Mr.

Personal

Boerne, TX

Hello ~ I support HB6 coming to the floor tomorrow - March 25th. I believe that each legal citizen of the United States and Texas

is entitled to one vote - with a form of photo identification. Due to circumstances that have happened in the last election - these changes mentioned in HB 6 are necessary. We need election integrity and purity of the ballot box. Anyone who participates in fraudulent activity should be prosecuted. The voter roles need to be cleaned up. There needs to be restrictions on mail-in-voting. Voting needs to be fair. There should not be drive -in voting - since there won't be a pandemic. Nor should there be drop boxes. If someone is disabled, over seas, or a student - who can't be present - they should produce documentation as to their absence. This bill will provide equal rights for all Texans voting - no matter, color, race or creed. Rules don't scare people nor suppress them, but clarify how the process should run safely and securely.

Carol Riebel, Ms.

Personal

Boerne, TX

Hello ~ I support HB6 coming to the floor tomorrow - March 25th. I believe that each legal citizen of the United States and Texas is entitled to one vote - with a form of photo identification. Due to circumstances that have happened in the last election - these changes mentioned in HB 6 are necessary. We need election integrity and purity of the ballot box. Anyone who participates in fraudulent activity should be prosecuted. The voter roles need to be cleaned up. There needs to be restrictions on mail-in-voting. Voting needs to be fair. There should not be drive -in voting - since there won't be a pandemic. Nor should there be drop boxes. If someone is disabled, over seas, or a student - who can't be present - they should produce documentation as to their absence. This bill will provide equal rights for all Texans voting - no matter, color, race or creed. Rules don't scare people nor suppress them, but clarify how the process should run safely and securely.

Regina Salandy

Self nurse

Baytown, TX

All people who are qualified by law deserves the right to vote. Those who are immunocompromised (receiving treat for cancer, lupus, organ transplants or other diseases for example) by law also have the right to vote. I work very long hours in a hospital caring for such individuals, who may not otherwise be able to vote. If voting requires all going to a single place to compromise the right to live for those who must avoid highly crowded places. My patients are survivors. Many times I do not have a chance to make it to the ballot box. I work long hours. Face it the "ballot box" is no longer just a "box" it is 2021. Technology. The "ballot box" is now constructed with computer chips. Similar to a vault provide the voter with protection, while securing several various ways for ALL qualified people to vote. Regardless of health conditions or occupation. Therefore I am AGAINST HB6 and any restrictions for accommodations necessary for legal qualified citizens to cast a vote.

Victoria Hanson

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes on HB 6

The Election Integrity Protection Act of 2021, safeguards the integrity of our elections and builds public confidence in our electoral process. I like the fact that this bill covers many potential cracks in our system, to include:

maintaining accurate voter rolls by ensuring deceased individuals are identified and removed in a timely manner;
ensuring poll watchers are not removed from polling places for frivolous reasons;
clarifying laws and identifying criminal activities and reigning in and defining vote harvesting activities, et al

This is a very comprehensive bill which I fully support.

Christopher Bunkley

Self

Plano, TX

VOTE IN FAVOR OF HB6

Vote integrity must be ensured at all costs if we are to be a nation by the people for the people. The rampant 2020 election fraud was one of the greatest travesties in American history. We must never again allow the will of the people to be so completely and obviously subverted.

Laurie Stelljes

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Voting should be easier not harder. Vote against this dangerous voter suppression bill and stop the Big Lie. I worked at both the polls and at the election office. Processing mail in ballots is safe, secure and managed together by both parties. Support democracy and vote against this bill.

Andrea Stallworth

Self

Katy, TX

Against

Lauren Davis

self, geologist

San Antonio, TX

I volunteer with multiple civic organizations to educate Texans about voting and I assist them in the voting process. For example, I have distributed mail in ballot applications and assisted voters in filling them out when they had questions. HB 6 is so broad that it could inhibit the civic organizations that I volunteer for from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications.

When I'm voting the last thing that I want is to be harasser by a poll watcher. Giving poll watchers essentially unfettered access to a polling place and criminalizing election judges for not complying means my privacy can be invaded. As a voter, I don't want poll watchers thinking they can look at things like my ID and that not letting them do that is illegal. I should only have to show my ID once I'm inside the polling place to an election worker, not a poll watcher.

Carrie Arroyo

self

Waco, TX

I live, work, and raise my family in McLennan County and I vote regularly. I wholeheartedly oppose HB6 because it is purely and simply a bill to suppress African American votes, those who are aligned with African Americans, and marginalized

populations in our state whose legal right to vote is being threatened by the limitations proposed in this bill. All voters deserve to have the opportunity to vote despite any transportation, health, or physical challenges. This bill is hiding under false claims of efficiency and voter fraud that is more than adequately covered and prevented under the current law. This bill is designed to take our state back to the Jim Crow era. State's official machinery is being utilized to lock African Americans citizens out of the electoral process. If the House passes this bill, members will lose the votes of all Texans who do not support the suppression of the votes African Americans, young people, working-class and poor people, the elderly, and disabled people.

Kristen Card
Concerned Voter
Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Angela Weber
Self. Practice Manager - Optometry
DALLAS, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? Why would anyone want to make it harder to vote in this democratic nation?

Eryn Rowe
Self
Houston, TX

I stand against the HB 6 Bill because we should be able to vote in various ways, let our voices be heard.

Alexandra Guio
self
Dallas, TX

Election Committee,
I strongly oppose HB 6. One of the rights I hold most precious as a U.S. Citizen is my right to vote. However, I am angry and disappointed at the actions of Governor Abbott and the GOP legislators who have chosen to use my right to vote as their political agenda.

Texas is growing more diverse, young, and urban. This bill significantly diminishes the voting rights of the people in Texas.

Texas has had a long history of discrimination against people of color and women when it comes to voting rights and its time we stop this injustice. From the passage of the 15th amendment, the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and even today, disenfranchisement continues in many forms. The history is important because it continues to repeat itself. Texas has a history of literacy tests, poll taxes, "white only" primaries, the Expatriation Act of 1907, and thousands of poll watchers that led to intimidation in neighborhoods with high populations of people of color. After the Voting Rights Act, Republicans falsely claimed of a hundred "phantom votes" but were corrected when the allegations were found to be a clerical error. Temporary voting locations that benefited college students and rural towns were forced to close because they couldn't meet the requirements that were written in a Republican sponsored bill. Further, lawmakers have aggressively punished minor violations of election law with severe sentences (lawmakers include the then-Attorney General Greg Abbott in 2006 & those

prosecuted included mainly people of color and Democrats).

Personally, the worst form of discrimination was the attempt to purge the voters rolls based on knowingly false data from DPS records. It is personal because my name was included on that list. I became a naturalized citizen in May of 2013 but DPS did not have a record of that. So while this attempted purge was ongoing – I lived in fear that I would show up to my polling location only to find out that I was no longer registered. That is unacceptable.

Now today with HB 6: it is the same techniques of the past – just with a new name.

- Using language like “to reduce the likelihood of fraud” (when our own Secretary of State has testified that our elections were safe and secure) is used solely to instill fear and a false narrative.

- This bill gives poll watchers overwhelming control and power when we know historically poll watchers have been used to intimidate and deter voters of color in the past

- This bill creates new crimes to deter many from participating in the democratic process- again a tool we’ve seen in the recent past

Simply put - This is Jim Crow language cloaked in 21st century political rhetoric.

My right to vote is not the GOP’s political chew-toy to play with for their disposal.

This is nothing more than a clear attempt to rig the election system in an attempt to benefit the Republican Party and make it harder for people of color to vote. I strongly urge the committee to vote against HB 6.

Lynda Chandler

Self:Patient Acct Rep

Houston, TX

I object to limiting the people from voting in elections that is convenient and safe and lawful. This is 2021 people deserve convenience and the fact of waiting in lines for hours on end to vote for some people is not possible due to illness or age. Listen to the people.

Dora Cummings

Self

HOUSTON, TX

If I am understanding this bill correctly, the changes being proposed are meant to "preserve the purity of the ballot box". In my opinion it seems that these changes are not purifying the ballot box. These changes being proposed will serve to suppress one's right to vote. I have been voting since I became eligible to vote so many moons ago. I vividly remember being asked for both my ID card as well as my voter registration card before I was allowed to vote. I realized at that time that different rules were being applied to different people strictly based on the color of our skin as not everyone was being asked to present both of these documents.

The changes being proposed in some form or fashion will basically do the same thing - allow certain voters to cast their votes without undue hardships while making it harder for others. For the past few years my husband and I have relied on early voting and mail in ballots as in our old age, it is getting harder to get around. These changes will make it harder for us to exercise our right to vote.

It is my understanding that there is a provision in this bill that will allow poll watchers to record anyone they believe is receiving assistance. This provision has the appearance of being very subjective as it will be up to the poll watcher to determine whether you are recorded or not. I also have learned that any form of media can be manipulated to suit one's needs. So a recording cannot guarantee that fraud did not take place.

I am not one to rock the boat as I have always kept my head down and stayed quiet. However, as soon as I heard about this bill and what it was proposing, I had to voice my opinion. This bill is wrong as it is not preserving the purity of the ballot box. IT IS LIMITING OUR RIGHT TO VOTE!!! DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!!!

It has been a heck of a year for us Texans as we have struggled with the Pandemic and most recently the Winter Storm. Please don't subject us to more hardships, by actually voting Yes on this bill. What this bill proposes is crazy!!! THIS CRAZINESS HAS TO STOP!!

Danielle Lail

self

Austin, TX

This would reduce opportunities to vote, create long lines, & require Texans with disabilities to provide a doctor's note to get a mail ballot. I would like us to expand access to voting vs adding in laws that restrict voting.

Harry Hall, Dr.

Educational Consultant

Missouri City, TX

Through the decades ethical leaders with integrity worked to provide voting rights to all people. This included blacks, women, wealthy, as well as the improvised. It did not matter the political affiliation. However, our leaders today have become so concerned with maintaining power, they are willing to create a false narrative about voter integrity. Therefore, I ask that you consider legislation that protect voters rights and not suppress rights. The current bill being proposed is designed to favor the party in control to maintain control. Therefore, I ask that you remember the phrase "for the people by the people." I voice my concern with HB 6.

Theresa McAda

Self, Technical Writer

Liberty Hill, TX

This is clearly a racist attempt by Republicans to once again subvert democracy. They do not believe in democracy. They do not want the people to choose their leaders. Rather, they want to choose their voters. They are liars, bigots, and their irresponsible policies bring Texas down. We have mass shootings because these monsters have evil priorities! Pro-life? That is LAUGHABLE. They do not value life at all! They want absolutely no regulation on assault weapons which have no purpose except for MURDER, and they hide behind 2A. They ignore "WELL REGULATED" and constantly put all of us in danger, even after multiple MASSACRES! They love to cherry-pick the pieces of the Constitution, just as they do the Bible, always to wield power for selfish motives. Their greed and power lust have led them to ignore constituents and pursue power for power's sake (and to profit from their gift). Yet they pretend that "voter fraud" is a problem, spending 22,000 hours (and TEXANS' MONEY) TRYING TO INVENT THIS PROBLEM. We have an indicted fraudster running things! This is all BACKWARDS AND IDIOTIC! It's wrong and makes us look like ignorant hillbillies. Assault rifles and this absurd open-carry crap are NOT in the Constitution! The right to VOTE is! If anyone is dishonest, it is NOT THE VOTERS. It's the evil bigots and hypocritical lying "pro-life" religious zealots (who are OBSESSED with everyone else's genitals!) who just simply are MAKING UP LIES in order to suppress the vote and to stop people they don't like from voting! ENOUGH OF BIGOTRY! I am in a town of 3000 people. The demographics are changing and the bigots are afraid and hateful. They need to go "pray on" the hate in their hearts and GET THEIR LIES OUT OF OUR LAWS. Separate church and state. Separate this prejudice and dishonest CHEATING from our election process! Shame on ANYONE who advocates making it HARDER for ANYONE to vote! The "voter fraud" problem is virtually non-existent. How many cases found in 22000 hours? A literal handful! Not enough to change any outcomes. It's a WASTE of my money. There is work to be done (power grid ring a bell?) and this is NONSENSE. BIGOTED NONSENSE BASED ON THE LIES OF THE CORRUPT RADICAL REACTIONARY RIGHT! Stop with this UNAMERICAN, UNCONSTITUTIONAL EVIL! If you can't get elected without pulling this garbage, that's because you can't get elected! Being "elected" by eliminating votes isn't getting elected. IT IS CHEATING AND IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF EVERYTHING OUR

REPUBLIC STANDS FOR! FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE. ALL THE PEOPLE! Grow up and play fair! Texans are sick of this! Shame on you for this ridiculous doublespeak. Just admit it: you don't want people to vote because when everyone votes, fewer people vote for you! This bill is a FARCE!

Jackie Kahle

Self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting. I support no excuse vote by mail.

Kirk Pate

Self

Flatonia, TX

I oppose HB6 from a historical perspective, and here's why. I recently read Big Wonderful Thing by Stephen Harrigan. This is Texas' history about geography, landscapes, vistas, people, struggles, life, death, and taking.

It is also a history about racism and caste (my words, not the authors). It is about the exercise of White power to take from indigenous peoples, both Mexican and Indian. Over time, it took from African Americans as well. There are no Texas heroes among those who exercised their White power to take land and lives and everything in between. Over time, it gave and now is slowly taking voting rights.

While not being able to outright make voting by people of color illegal, many provisions of HB6 amount to Republican vote harvesting by intimidation, obstruction, interference, restriction, roadblock, delay, bureaucracy, and criminal penalty in expectation of yielding White vote majorities. The bills would maintain White vote majorities by voting rights rationing to perpetuate a caste system.

These bills would establish in election law a basis and multiplicity of pathways for frivolous legal or other challenges to even those elections conducted with the utmost integrity. For example, by expanding poll watchers' authority to interrupt legitimate polling or central counting station processes and to file frivolous claims, the bills would lay groundwork for future legal challenges to such elections as were conducted with fairness, openness, and integrity in 2020.

HB6 is 21st century racism and caste maintenance at work by Whites who are engaging in one of the longest ongoing "taking" wars in Texas' history. Without even the patina of integrity, these bills would perversely and virtually make it illegal to not practice racism and perpetuate the caste system. The bills would make it illegal to expand voting rights and facilitate them in any way.

I'm just saying, Republicans are preparing for the future when at last Whites are the minority race in Texas and they lose their grip on the top rung of the caste ladder.

Dorene West

Self, retired

Houston, TX

We need to be able to keep in place all the accommodations that allowed people to vote during the pandemic last year. There was no election fraud. Republicans and Democrats can monitor ballot locations easily. Don't make new rules to make it difficult for people to vote; that is un-American.

Daphne Adams

Self, information technology manager

Sugar land, TX

It is amazing that some do not want to hear the voices of the people. It is not acceptable to attempt to silence the voices. The working class people have built the country not the 1%.

With covid spreading across the country and working people dying from it, people still trying to silence us. People deserve to be safe and healthy while at the same time exercising the right to vote. Creativity with minimum to no risk is welcomed. In fact let's go a step further to figure out how to vote remotely online. Don't shut the doors of flexibility to vote!!

Michael Aulick, Mr.

Self, City planner

Driftwood, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and any restriction on voting.

Dirk Minniefield

Self

Houston, TX

This bill would limit my ability to vote as it also takes away access for minority groups

Colleen Martin

Dallas County Democratic Party

Dallas, TX

Priorities are not in order. The right to vote is inherent in what comprises the United States of America. It gives each citizen the privileges of participation in the governing of our nation. To even consider limiting that privilege goes against what this country was founded on. It is abhorrent such a movement exists. The very mention makes Texas an embarrassment. I consider this privilege sacred regardless of ones political leaning.

Mark Taylor

Self

Houston, TX

I find that the bill proposed does the exact opposite of what it says it's trying to do. It defies common sense and logic and seeks to limit and suppress voters rights. It's an enormous waste of resources in attempt to sway votes to one group and take away from the other. I am against this bill.

Chris Garrett

self

Corpus Christi, TX

We are losing faith in elections. Serious reform and penalties for fraud are necessary to return a belief that voting is meaningful.

Robert Hallenbeck

Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

HOUSTON, TX

As a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar and Alternate Election Judge on Election Day for the 2020 General Election, I urge you to vote AGAINST HB 6, which would restrict voting rights by impacting voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers.

HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject this unwarranted bill.

Christina Sabisch

Voter deputy registrar

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? On-line voter registration is safe and cost effective.

Kelly Lawson

Self

Waco, TX

This Bill is an effort to suppress votes, especially in African American communities. I am strongly opposed to this bill as a Texan.

Jonas Arroyo

Self

Waco, TX

I oppose HB 6 because it unfairly keeps people from voting

Sherry Harmon

Self/accounting

Houston, TX

AGAINST HB 6 keep all alternatives open. SherryHarmon

Abigail Zeno, Ms

Self

Katy, TX

Keep the voting guidelines just as it was for Trump/Biden ticket. I stand against making changes.

ANDRES JONES

Self

Richmond, TX

If you have to limit, eliminate and restrict anything that means there is too much of something. So since there was too much voting cast in 2020 for the Democratic Party and because Republicans cannot give people a reason to vote for them, they would rather make it harder. You haven't given people a reason to vote for you so want to restrict and eliminate ways to vote. In other words, you cannot win an election unless you take voters away? You cannot give people policy or differences with the opposition so you have to make it harder to vote. You can't prove any fraud with evidence so you want to change, eliminate and restrict voting. According to The Council on Foreign Relations, only 66.7% of eligible voters voted in 2020. Why don't you go after the 33% that didn't vote instead with policy, some excitement to vote, and a plan to improve their lives instead of trying to make it harder for the ones who did vote but didn't vote for the Republican side? Why can't you win an election if 99% of the eligible voters voted? You know the majority is going to vote Democratic and you know you can't change it unless to take access away.

Rachel Bresner, ADL Jean & Jerry Moore Southwest Civil Rights Counsel

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Houston, TX

ADL PART 1: We write to express our strong opposition to House Bill 6, which erects entirely unnecessary barriers to voting with no discernable public benefit. While the restrictions in this legislation will cause harm to all Texans, they also fall disproportionately on those for whom participation in our democracy is already most challenging: shift workers with little time to vote, older voters, voters with disabilities, and those historically excluded from voting as a matter of state law – Black voters and voters of color. As a result, this bill will make our democracy less accessible and inclusive and less representative, tarnishing the essential promise at the heart of our state's and nation's political system: a government by and for the people.

ADL (Anti-Defamation League) is a national nonpartisan anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all.” Its mandate is to protect the civil rights of all persons; eliminate vestiges of discrimination, racism, and antisemitism; and fight hatred in all its forms. Advancing voting rights and promoting democracy has long been a core component of this mission. Indeed, encouraging voters to be active participants in the political process and promoting universal suffrage are crucial to ADL's founding goal to secure the fair and just treatment of all people. Through educational campaigns on how to vote; activism in the legislative arena and other halls of power; and, when necessary, participation in litigation, ADL has sought to guarantee basic voting rights for all Americans.

House Bill 6 threatens voting rights in several important ways, with a number of issues highlighted herein. First, it unduly restricts the flexibility of local election authorities by limiting their ability to allocate polling places, voting machines, and other resources according to where they expect the greatest turnout, and to establish temporary or outdoor polling sites if needed. This can only inflict longer lines and greater delays on voters in denser urban and suburban locations while privileging those in less populated locales and increasing the risk that critically needed voting machines sit idle. Not surprisingly, research shows that greater delays in voting reduces turnout, often in racially disparate ways. Again, local election administrators are the best judges of how to deploy the means of voting so that all Texans enjoy equal access to the polls with minimal waiting. They also need the flexibility to respond to local conditions, such as the kind of health crisis voters and authorities faced in 2020, or Hurricane Ike in 2008, which forced Galveston County officials to improvise when administering that election.

Solomon Osifodunrin, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

I do not agree that the bill should move forward because it has the potential to disenfranchise fellow Americans from voting. This is not the intention of our forefathers. Please as fellow patriotic citizens of this great country step this bill down. We need to do unto others as we want them to do unto us. There is no justification for this bill. We should be happy that everyone is trying to participate in the governance of this country . It is our constitutional right. Please do not take it away from the less privileged. Together we can make this nation greater. Thank you

Marjorie Meyer, MS

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB6 with all my heart and soul, and have to think that every single member of the House Elections Committee will agree that you cannot in good faith pass this bill. As representatives of our great state, you should be expanding the right to vote, not restricting it, finding every way possible to encourage participation in the election process. Together, SB7 and HB6 would:

- Ban drive-through and outdoor voting, which were a GREAT success in Harris County, as was the 24-hour voting access!
- Restrict voters from dropping off completed absentee ballots. One drop box per county is RIDICULOUS! Why should they be restricted?
- Criminalize small mistakes for people assisting voters to register. Are you trying to intimidate voters and volunteers?
- Discourage volunteers from driving voters, including the elderly, to polling places. Why would this cause a problem? Shouldn't we be compassionate and caring for those who need our help so they can have equal access to be able to vote?
- Eliminate large voting sites meant to make voting quicker. Why? This was a huge success in Harris County!
- Mandate overzealous and voter roll purges that would disqualify many eligible voters. Purging voter rolls of dead people is one thing, deleting names of perfectly eligible voters is another. I'm sure you remember the catastrophe created by the last effort to do this.
- Increase burdens on voters with disabilities to access assistance at the polls. We should be doing just the opposite!!

Texas legislatures should be doing everything you can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot. Why does it seem that many of you are afraid to let your Texas residents vote?

As hard as some folks tried to prove illegal voting in Texas, all attempts failed. Our innovative processes worked, even in the midst of a pandemic. Let's learn from those successes, formalize them for all future elections, and agree that YOUR role is to make it as easy as possible to ensure everyone has the right and access to vote.

Joan Cordell

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I want to express my strong support for HB6. Would like to see added to the bill the following:voter ID for absentee mail in ballots and for continuous clean up of voter rolls. Please pass this bill for the integrity of our elections and uphold the constitution.

Carol Peters, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a volunteer deputy registrar, poll worker and voter. HB6 makes all three of my roles more difficult. Criminalizing minor errors in registration, a process that is already confusing, deters voters and volunteers from participating. Enabling poll watchers to harass and encroach on any voter they choose will turn the polls into a chaotic mess. Poll workers are volunteers, dedicated to completing the task: why would anyone volunteer if terrorized by HB6? Enabling the AG to raise any affidavit no matter how baseless to his office is a form of intimidation and harassment. Reducing early voting days, hours and polling locations suppresses the vote. Texas successfully executed an election in a pandemic, why change? This bill does nothing to help voters; instead a baseless whisper campaign about unproven fraud is the underpinning of proposed legislation. As a mail in voter, I resent the implication that my ballot is somehow an attempt to cast a tainted ballot. Texas already has protections in place that are sufficient. I should not have to beg for an application or dig for it in a website. Voting should be easy, widespread and open. This bill accomplishes none of these things.

Rachel Bresner, ADL Jean & Jerry Moore Southwest Civil Rights Counsel

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Houston, TX

ADL PART 2: Next, House Bill 6 places restrictions on counties and prevents the solicitation or distribution of vote by mail applications so overly broad in scope that it may threaten even general communications to the public about the mere existence and process of voting by mail. The bill provides incentives for counties to remove all outward facing messaging about vote by mail from their websites and flyers, and to refrain from oral communications with voters about vote by mail. The right to vote is only meaningful if voters have information on how to exercise it. By sharply restricting what election officials can tell voters about vote by mail, a key method of voting will be severely limited.

Another worrisome provision in House Bill 6 gives partisan poll watchers virtually unrestricted access to voters and election administrators in the polling place, even allowing them to use cell phones and other devices to record voters believed to be engaged in “unlawful activity.” This provision is an invitation for hyper-partisan observers to intimidate and violate the privacy of voters and disrupt the voting process – wittingly or not – as they go about the most sacred task in any democracy. It will only serve to further intimidate Black voters and voters of color, communities already historically targeted for voter suppression efforts. Overzealous poll watching has frequently been the subject of voter complaints, costly litigation, and restraining orders in Texas and nationally. The Legislature should reject this provision, which is likely to scare and confuse many voters, worsen the experience of voting, and depress turnout.

House Bill 6 also increases confusion and places unnecessary burdens on voters with disabilities. It undermines confidentiality for these voters by requiring individuals who assist voters to fill out a new form attesting to “the reason the assistance was necessary.” In many cases, this will require the disclosure of medically private and confidential information that the government should not require people to have to disclose in order to vote. The Legislature should make it easier for all eligible voters to vote – not harder, as with House Bill 6.

Finally, ADL objects to several other unnecessary provisions in House Bill 6. The bill criminalizes paying people who help voters complete and return mail-in ballots, thus severely restricting the ability of entities like disability rights organizations to help Texans who need the assistance. The bill increases penalties for voting clerks in ways liable to criminalize innocent mistakes and make it harder to recruit volunteers to run our elections. None of these measures are necessary, and all are likely to lead to disenfranchisement and other harmful consequences.

Rachel Bresner, ADL Jean & Jerry Moore Southwest Civil Rights Counsel

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Houston, TX

ADL PART 3: Perhaps the many provisions of House Bill 6 would be worth the Legislature’s consideration if Texas’s elections were rife with fraud or serious error. But, to quote a recent Texas Tribune story: “Though there are documented cases of fraud in

Texas, it remains rare. There have been no reports or evidence that there were widespread issues concerning fraud during the 2020 election, and Keith Ingram – the chief of elections at the Texas Secretary of State’s office – recently told House lawmakers that ‘Texas had an election that was smooth and secure.’” Last year, the Houston Chronicle reported that, despite devoting 22,000 staff hours to the task, the Texas Attorney General’s office closed only 16 cases related to elections – all false addresses on voter registration forms in Harris County.

The sponsors of House Bill 6 have essentially conceded the absence of actual election fraud in mail-in voting, drive-through voting, extended-hour early voting, and all other types of voting in 2020. Nonetheless, they maintain the need for this bill as a way to reassure Texans of the integrity of their elections. ADL believes strongly that unsupported fears of voter fraud are insufficient justification for making voting even harder and more time-consuming – thereby ultimately constricting the rights of many Texans to vote at all. Consequently, we strongly oppose enactment of House Bill 6.

Norri Leder

self

Bellaire, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB6 because it would make it dramatically harder to vote. My father is 91 and my mother in law is in her early 80s. The restrictions put in this bill on absentee voting are absurd and transparently designed to make it harder for people to vote by mail. As a Texan and as an American, I want people to vote - absentee, drive through, at 7 am, 7 pm and midnight if possible. My husband and I did drive through voting last election because of COVID. We both voted for both Democrats and Republicans. It was infuriating to watch certain Texas elected officials try to nullify our votes. From our perspective, it felt utterly undemocratic HB6 feels the same. I just read an article in the Texas Tribune saying there have been more mass shootings in Texas in the last two years than instances of voter fraud. This bill is a solution in search of a problem - and the solution feels unAmerican.

Thank you.

Hope Johnson

Self

Houston, TX

We do not want voter suppression laws that take away our fundamental rights to vote. We want drive through voting, early voting and all the flexibility to allow every legal citizen the right to vote. This year we had a historic number of people who voted in the middle of a pandemic. Everyone cannot take off work to vote. We need the ability to vote safely and vote early and not stand in long lines for several hours to vote. Create more options to vote, not less.. If our constitution means anything and if you believe in our democracy you will not create voting laws that disproportionately affect minority and low income communities.

Michael Donegan

Rockwall County Republican Party

Rockwall, TX

Honorable Members of the Peoples House:

Maintain election security is your most important responsibility. It is the essence of public defense and safety. The sanctity of the vote separates us from forms of government that rule the people instead of represent the people. It prevents the totalitarian state.

I will repeat what I know to be true from trustworthy sources. These sources were involved in investigating election fraud.

Last election 18,000 people were registered to vote both in Texas and Oklahoma. Those 18,000 people voted in Oklahoma and Texas on November 3. In several locations, fake Drivers Licenses were given to people who drove up to vote in outside voting locations. If the people did not have a Drivers License, one was given to them to "validate" their ballot. When reported to election judges, suddenly the drivers license disappeared. The youtube video of the person in San Antonio getting people to request a mail in ballot and them telling them who to vote should be proof enough to restrict the use of mail in ballots.

I would also recommend that every voting district from State down to sub precinct be audited to be sure that there are no discrepancy between votes cast and registered voters. If an imbalance, occurs then all votes must be accounted for legality.

The argument that strict procedures in proving the identity of a legal voter discredminates against some classes of voters, is a falsehood. What discredminates against voters casting a ballot, is allowing false and illegal votes to be counted. Perpetrating or devising illegal votes to be used in an election should not only be subject to fines and imprisonment, but also loss of citizenship and privileges of citizenship. It should provoke the stiffest form of criminal retribution. My vote is second only to my life or one of my family members life, in protecting my freedoms.

For God and Country

Michael Donegan

Andrew Ortiz

Self, small business owner

Houston, TX

This is the dumbest thing you all could possibly vote to pass. Why would you make it harder for people to vote? Why disenfranchise those of us who depended on the extra measure our local officials took to ensure our safety exercising our right to vote? Are you so afraid of people actually participating in democracy? What's the point when there's so little evidence of voter fraud? Do you realize we don't see this for what it truly is? A desperate attempt to take power away from the people and concentrate in the hands of the few, spineless cowards. What is it about black and brown people participating in a democracy for all? Do you truly not realize how these bills make it harder for some of us to exercise our freedoms? Of course you do, and yet despite it being so obvious you proceed without caution. I am begging those of you with a conscience to please consider the hundreds of thousands who participated in voting for the first time this past election cycle as a result of increased availability. Why would you fight so hard to prevent them from feeling like they belong in this this country?

Andrew Fahey

Self

DRIFTWOOD, TX

The amendments as proposed would strengthen and provide less ambiguity to ensure our Texas voting laws. Please consider this comment as support for said bill.

Barbara White

White's Body Shop

Waco, TX

I support HB 6 because we must have meaningful election reform. Having been a poll watcher and recruited, trained and scheduled poll watchers, I know the abuses that can occur at the polling place against legally placed watchers. I also appreciate the reforms to voter assistance, which again, as a watcher I have witnessed questionable assistance multiple times. Hopefully the penalties outlined in this bill will help to prevent this. I am also hopeful about the BBM reforms. I hope this applies to

candidates and other groups sending BBM apps. My mom used to get so confused with all the BBM apps she would receive in the mail. The only way a voter should get a BBM is if THEY request it on their own. Thank you.

Meg Wallace, organizer/director
the Amberley Collaborative
Woodway, TX

I oppose HB 6. It would make it more difficult for eligible voters to cast their ballot, without preventing fraud. The proposed barriers to voting would disproportionately affect eligible voters of color, eligible naturalized citizens, and eligible disabled voters from casting their ballots. Democracy requires equal access to the ballot for all eligible voters, not restrictions that make it more difficult for some groups to vote than others.

Dazilene Freeman
Dazilene Freeman Teacher Aid
Cypress, TX

Will Make it harder for people with disabilities to vote.

Joseph Charles
Self
Cypress, TX

This bill is voter suppression, we should not make this bill a law.

Virgina Sandoval
Self
San Antonio, TX

Our Democracy, Patriotism and America depend on the Right to Vote. I have lived my entire life in Bexar county and hold Voting Rights near and dear to my heart. In my 30+ years of voting I have never witnessed the fraud and criminal activity that has been claimed. We should be spending our time and money on making it easier for every eligible voter to make their voice heard. As Texans & Americans, we will never agree on one candidate or bill but we must make easy to vote so that we have a fair playing field. We can't change the rules of the game because we are afraid of losing. We must make it fair and celebrate the winner Don't try to suppress votes. It is like deflating footballs at super bowl game. It is cheating and the state of Texas is one of Integrity NOT cheaters! Thank you.

Valerie Street
Texas Progressive Action Network
Austin, TX

On behalf of Texas Progressive Action Network, and along with the many others you will hear from today speaking out against HB 6 and similar legislation that unfortunately carries with it the effect of further burdening some of our most vulnerable Texas voters, we urge committee members to oppose this bill and work toward policies that will improve Texas voting.

HB 6 adds overly complicated and confusing provisions when voters should need or require assistance, it creates higher penalties and criminal proceedings that threaten volunteer workers and public officials, it gives alarming range to poll watchers which could then result in voter intimidation at the polls and it takes the vote by mail option, already limited only to Texas voters who qualify, and makes it an even more arduous system to navigate.

We know we echo many Texans when we say that it really needn't be any harder to vote in Texas than it already is. Unfortunately bills like HB 6, in the end, do nothing to bring about election integrity because there can be no integrity in repeated legislative attacks on our vote. We urge you to reject this legislation and instead, as a committee, look to efforts that strengthen voting in the state of Texas and bolster this vital civic participation.

Audrey Muntz

self, Consultant

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB6. HB 6 would complicate voting and add unnecessary procedures that would subject voters, those assisting voters, and public officials to criminal penalties. Specifically, HB 6 puts votes in jeopardy by adding complicated and confusing provisions when voters require assistance. It also threatens volunteer workers with penalties and criminal proceedings. These volunteer workers contribute their time to offer fellow citizens the ability to vote. Further, HB6 jeopardizes polling place safety by giving poll watchers (who are partisan appointees) unwarranted authority to intrude upon and intimidate voters and election officials. And rather than protecting votes and voters, it limits them by hindering the ability of eligible voters to access applications for voting by mail. Please stop this unjustifiable attack on voters and election officials.

JACQUELINE EVERETTE

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not make voting harder to impede the democratic process.

Ruth Boardman-Alexander

self - Adult Education instructor

Waco, TX

I am opposed to this bill as it will suppress voters' rights.

Markessa Charles

Self

Cypress, TX

This bill is voter suppression, and should not become a law.

Sherry Mercer

Self

Dallas, TX

The basis for this bill is rhetoric by twice impeached never won the popular vote former president Trump. He promoted fraud which was then promoted by the GOP & Fox News. Once the Republican base started believing the big lie, republicans began talking about their “concerns”. This has nothing to with voter fraud, it’s a blatant attempt at voter suppression & should not pass.

Kellie M Yk

Self

Katy, TX

I am against this bill

William Routon II, Mr.

Self; retired state employee—Administrative Law Judge

Tyler, TX

A bipartisan lament for years is the low percentage of the American public that votes in each election. Hands are wrung and the better percentage of other countries are pointed out. Again, this is by members of both political parties. Now, Republicans are going to great lengths to make voting more difficult, so less will be able to vote, so the percentage of people voting will remain low, so the lament and hand-wringing can and will continue.

The basis for this is to prevent all of the alleged fraud that is occurring in voting and to protect the (cue the angelic chorus and hands folded in prayer while looking up to heaven) integrity of the election system. There has been no fraud. A Republican commission set up by Trump found none. 60 court cases in multiple jurisdictions found none after Trump's defeat. Recounts in multiple jurisdictions found none. The fraud prevention and integrity protection gambits are transparent to anyone who is not intent on perpetuating the big lie as pretexts for attempting to limit voting. The attempt to use alleged fraud prevention and integrity protection is not fooling anyone, except those who are fools.

This bill is wrong, it is un-American, it is dishonest, and its purported basis is not fooling anyone.

Shekhar Sinha

Self, Information Technology Professional

San Antonio, TX

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against SB 7 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. SB 7 and HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Veronica Anzaldua

Self

McAllen, TX, TX

I am 51 years old and have been voting since I was 19. In all the years I've cast my ballot, I have seen candidates win and lose. But one constant that I have seen over the years is that voting has brought about great changes: quality healthcare, the expansion of rights/freedoms to historically marginalized groups, money needed to upgrade and build new schools, and expansion of voting rights, among other great things. I have come to realize that there is a connection between voting and these developments. A lot of the great things we have, we have because of our right to make our voices heard through the vote. In order for us to continue demanding these changes, in order for us to continue our quest to make this country a "more perfect union," we must continue to have the right to choose our Representatives and Senators. We must continue having the right to make our demands and grievances known. Voting is a right that benefits everyone who exercises it--and those who don't. The legislation you are proposing is not only unnecessary but also unconstitutional. It robs us of our voices and erases the years of hard work that gave us that most important right as U.S. citizens. Therefore, as a concerned citizen and your constituent, I implore you to vote against this legislation. I implore you to realize that we as Americans, no matter who we are, have the right to be heard through our votes, the right that is guaranteed to us through our Constitution. Thank you.

Jeffrey Lu

self

Addison, TX

I oppose HB6

SONYA LETSON

retired municipal judge / President, League of Women Voters of Amarillo

Amarillo, TX

Members: Last year, in my role as President of the League of Women Voters here in Amarillo, I helped to register hundreds of people to vote, a great number being first-time voters. I also worked as an election worker on numerous days at a variety of polling sites. People were eager to register and excited to vote. They appreciated the process of registering being made easy, by volunteers willing to help, and the process of voting being made easier by extended dates and hours for voting. They were of all political persuasions, as expressed by many who said they were eager to vote for a certain candidate, but in keeping with the conservative nature of our area, most who did express an opinion were conservative voters. They had this in common: they wanted registering to vote and voting to be easy, and they wanted to participate in our elections process. HB 6 makes it harder to vote and harder to register, discouraging participation by voters of all political leanings. We should instead be encouraging everyone to participate and everyone to vote. As indicated by the results of the last election in Texas, greater turnout does not necessarily favor one party over another. It simply strengthens our democracy. I urge you to oppose HB 6.

Sonya Letson

Julia Strock

Self, homeschool teacher

Austin, TX

Only legal votes of American citizens should be counted, and the process should be designed to protect that objective. After the 2020 Presidential election fiasco due to unconstitutional changes in election procedures, with covid-19 as the excuse, Americans will never trust election results again. We must do everything we can to ensure fair elections in our state.

Linda Maldonado

Self

San Antonio, TX

OPPOSED to HB 6:

This omnibus bill will be combined with other bills to cause mass voter disenfranchisement. The state already has sound election integrity laws. State election officials have stated that our 2020 election was run professionally and fairly. So, I don't know why this bill is needed.

This bill will allow poll watchers to intimidate and harass voters within the voting booth.

This bill will subject election volunteers to criminal charges for clerical errors.

This bill is designed to reduce participation by communities of color and disabled voters

This bill reduces voting by mail options, especially when combined with SB 7 and other house bills in committee.

The authors have not presented facts that prove such changes are needed.

I am OPPOSED

Joseph Hamilton

Self- Grantwriter

Dallas, TX

Please vote no on this bill. This initiative will make it even harder for the diverse populations of Texas to make their voices heard. Voting during the pandemic was already immensely difficult. These new restrictions would make it even harder and put our state's democracy at further risk. Now is the time expand voting options not restrict them.

James Castagneto

Self/family retired teacher

Dripping Springs, TX

I feel that in order to maintain a fair and incorruptible election, ballots must be submitted on the day of the election (local, state and federal), and verified in place as to ensure accuracy with legally registered voters. "Requested" absentee ballots must not be opened until the Election Day, verified by two "opposing party" witnesses to match voter registration registrars list, and secured for possible future reference.

Kathy Ponce

Ellis County GOP and True Texas Project Ellis County

Maypearl, TX

I do not understand how Republicans or Democrats would not want their vote to count. I do not understand how either side would not want to ensure that all legal votes were counted and illegal votes are not? I moved to Texas from California for many reasons. One of the main reasons was due to my voting not mattering anymore. With virtually no in-person voting, mix-ups at the DMV's allowing Illegal Aliens in many circumstances to vote, and the legalization of Ballot Harvesting no one's vote really mattered anymore. The cheating and the illegal tactics were abundant. Every legal vote should matter. Fair and honest elections matter. I hope that both sides of the aisle can and will see this. Securing elections is not voter suppression but rather voter security that your/our votes matter. Please pass HB6 and ensure that the votes of Texans matter.

Kendall Kibby-Deck

Self, hairdresser

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. We should be making it easier to vote, not harder.

Michele Thompson

self, retired

Austin, TX

Please pass HB6. Did anyone follow the November 2020 elections? We MUST protect the integrity of our elections, strengthen prohibitions against and penalties for vote harvesting, fight mail in ballot fraud, protect the rights of poll watchers and expedite the reporting of deaths to voter registrars.

Rick Ridgeway

Self

Red Oak, TX

HB-6 is perhaps the most important in this legislative session to protect the future of Texas elections and I fully support this bill.

It's comprehensive in safeguarding all Texans right to a fair and fraudulent-free election. Texas voters deserve their vote and participation in the Texas election process not be disenfranchised by unlawful and unethical actions of others. A priority of all Texas elected officials is to work for the people and uphold the Texas Constitution. HB 6 does capture that essence.

In moving forward with this legislation, the most critical texts that must remain is in:

Sec. 276.015. UNLAWFUL SOLICITATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF APPLICATION TO VOTE BY MAIL, and in

Sec. 276.016. UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF BALLOTS AND BALLOTING MATERIALS.

The fraud that has been and will be most abused in any election is the vote by mail process. Those sections addressing that abuse and fraud covers and takes away that possibility of the most prevalently abused system of voter fraud.

This legislature must have the courage to move this bill forward and expedite it, so Texans will know all future elections will have voter integrity guaranteed.

Thank you.

Dedra Ecklund

Self - Engineer

The Woodlands, TX

I am opposed to any measure limiting or suppressing a person's right to vote, which this bill seeks to do. If an election commission is able to expand access and hours, then that is a great thing and it should be commended and supported. Free and fair elections are our constitutional right. I think the efforts made this last election cycle in Harris County were excellent toward accomplishing that goal. Limiting drop boxes in each county was not conducive to accessibility though. When we can all vote according to our current laws then we all win.

Darlene Cobbin
Crafts by Dena
Sugar Land, TX

Against the HB6, stopping ways for voters to be accommodated with voting.

Jessica Toliver
Self, Automotive Buyer
Grand Prairie, TX

There is no proven widespread fraud in our elections.

Douglas Barmore
self - data analyst
Katy, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. Please help put an end to this election fraud!

Karen Kelley
self, administration
austin, TX

I oppose HB6. As a Volunteer Deputy Registrar, and a previous election clerk, HB6 is voter suppression. It will put undue, unnecessary burdens on voters as well as VDRs and election clerks. The volunteer nature of finding clerks and judges to have adequate resources for carrying out election requirements is difficult enough without the threats which would be introduced via this bill.

PHILLIP EVANS
Self - Financial Advisor
Houston, TX

Voter ID must be required for absentee and mail-in ballots. Mail-in ballots should be severely limited to only specific shut-in voters who are not able to physically come to a polling location. Physical limitations must be verified and certified. Routine and frequent verification of voter rolls and new registrations must be performed.

Elizabeth Wareing, Mrs.
Self community volunteer
Houston, TX

I encourage a yes vote for HB 6

Pamela Cunningham

Self

Missouri City, TX

Vote against this bill as it will disproportionately limit voting access of the historically disenfranchised residents in Texas.

Jeana Foxman

Temple Emanu-El Dallas

Dallas, TX

On behalf Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, a Reform Jewish congregation with over 2700 voting-eligible members, we thank you for the opportunity to comment. We oppose the passage of HB 6, and urge you to vote no.

Our opposition is grounded in our faith and religious values. We recognize voting is both a sacred right of our American democracy and that the ideals of voting are also deeply rooted in our rich religious history and teachings. Dating back to the Babylonian Talmud, believed to be first written about 1600 years ago, it was recognized that “a ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted.” In these texts, Judaism emphasizes the importance of honoring freedom as a sacred gift, and voting is a tangible way to honor and celebrate that sacred gift of freedom that we have in our country. Making voting harder, especially for the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, and communities of color, as this legislation will most assuredly do, has the negative effect of limiting participation and suppressing the vote of many in our state. This is oppressive of the most vulnerable in our communities, which our sacred texts call upon us never to tolerate.

Election Security is absolutely essential to ensure that our democracy remains strong and assures that all eligible voters have the right to exercise their vote and have their vote counted. This past election cycle in Texas was determined to be one of the most secure elections ever - there was no widespread fraud. Using the mantra of widespread fraud when none exists does more to hurt the cause of election integrity and undermine our democracy than anything else.

Unfortunately, many provisions of HB 6 would not make elections more secure and would have the opposite effect of reducing voter participation by placing unnecessary barriers to the exercise of this most precious freedom. HB 6 is effectively a criminal law bill with a voting theme, and as such its often vague language, broad scope, and harsh penalties make it especially dangerous to not only voting freedom but the personal due process rights of people who could be accused of these brand-new crimes. In a phrase, HB 6 is a disturbing and unwarranted attempt to criminalize voting.

Our sacred Jewish texts and values, calling on us to protect the vulnerable and the stranger, thereby call on us to oppose this bill. We appreciate and support ensuring that our elections are secure and that the process has integrity. But the changes in law proposed in HB 6, rather than meaningfully addressing any legitimate voting security issues, will instead create unnecessary barriers for many citizens to exercise their freedom to vote and subject too many people to unwarranted severe criminal penalties. For all of these reasons, we urge you to vote no on HB 6.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy, Board of Trustees, and Advocacy Committee of Temple Emanu-El Dallas

Anne Carlson

Self/Social Worker

Kerrville, TX

Our democracy depends on more voices being heard, not less. Please utilize the people’s time and money for the creation of legislation that increases, not limits voter access. Thank you.

Carol Morgan, Ms
Self, Retired Counselor
Lubbock, TX

There were only 197 election fraud cases out of the almost 10 million voters in 2020, that is a very small percentage of the total vote. It does not justify the restraints that Texas government will be putting on Texas voters. I feel as if this is political strategy by Texas Republicans to prevent people from voting, which a guaranteed right by our Constitution. Why would Texas want to limit the number of people who want to vote? This is not right. This bill should not be passed. It is NOT to shore up election integrity, but a move designed to suppress the vote.

Kasinda Williams
Self
HOUSTON, TX

This is oppressive and pathetic. The people have a right to accessible and convenient voting. All PEOPLE.

Cheryl Gardner, Citizen
fellow citizens of Texas Self/Therapist
San Antonio, TX

This bill is pure voter suppression. The facts of the matter is that voter fraud in the entire USA is extremely low. Those of you who are trying to force this bill through are on the wrong side of both history and democracy. I request that you drop the matter, as it is an embarrassment to the vast majority of Texas voters. If it wasn't, you would not be trying to sneak this through. Please stop this reprehensible behavior, and toss this scam "bill" where it belongs.

Klaudia Forgacova
Self - Operations Manager
Dallas, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Michelle Doubet
Texas House Elections Committee
Cypress, TX

I support HB 6.

Elyse Elsenbrook
Self
Houston, TX

Restricting access to the ballot are anti democratic and unamerican. There is no reason for this law. No mass voter fraud has been found. This is just an excuse to exclude persons from voting, and keeping Texas politics as partisan as they are. Just don't do this.

YVONNE VASQUEZ

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am OPPOSED to this bill because it will make voting more difficult for people of color and disabled voters to vote in our elections.

Tricia Jones

Self

Rosharon, TX

I am AGAINST HB 6. We are supposed to be, "One Nation Under God!" We are ALL Americas and like it or not, we've been given the right to vote.

Jennifer Carmack

Self, Small Business Owner

Magnolia, TX

These measures are not necessary and only complicates the voting process for people that intend to show up and vote. I am against these measures and find them a political game that has no merit.

Sharon Mineo

Self / non-profit operations

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, please vote no. We should be making it easier for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote, not harder. The voter fraud myth is dangerous, racist, and moreover, it is devoid of evidentiary support.

Nicole Golden

Voter deputy registrar

Austin, TX

Protect the right for every Texan to vote safely and fairly. No more fearmongering and voter suppression. EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

Susan Anderson

Self

Benbrook, TX

I am against HB 6 and SB 7 because they are designed to suppress voter participation. Texas already has low voter participation. We should be trying to expand access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours, a longer early voting period, and vote by mail for all. I do not support criminalizing assistance to voters or any other measure that would intimidate voters, those to seek to increase voter turnout, or those who wish to exercise their right to vote.

Renee La Rue, Ms.

self, retired

Conroe, TX

This is just another attempt to suppress voting rights under the guise of "fraud prevention." We both know there has never been any proof of fraud being an issue. It's just another Republican tactic to try to win elections by preventing Democrats and like-minded people from voting. Endlessly repeating the lie about voter fraud does not make it true. Trump tried that and it didn't work. If you can't win elections based on your platform and policies, maybe that's what you should try to change instead of limiting the right of all people to vote.

Tiffany Owens

Self /marketing professional

Houston, TX

Against HB6 / We need more ways to accommodate voting in elections. This COVID-19 pandemic has proven that other non-traditional methods can work effectively.

Jermaine Thomas

Self

Houston, TX

Texas public policy should be to foster voter participation in elections not to deter it.

Troy Dennis, Mr

Self, Tax Assembly Sr.

Katy, TX

All avenues for voting should permitted for all U.S. citizens

Yvette Galvan

Self

Houston, TX

I would rather keep in person voting worn proper Id
for voting integrity

Jennifer Rike

Self / retired

Mansfield, TX

I do not support any bill that limits a residents ability to vote. One person one vote is the most fundamental pieces of our democracy. The existing laws on voter fraud are sufficient.

Robyn Honig

Self/Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

AUSTIN, TX

I strongly oppose. This bill uses false pretenses to consolidate one-party rule in Texas and is antithetical to representative democracy.

Jordan Hunter

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6 as it would unjustifiably suppress voters. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail. We need to expand voting rights, not suppress them.

Allison Winter

self

Spring, TX

I support HB 6 because without a penalty associated with election offenses, an offender is not held accountable. Our right to vote as citizens is a sacred right and should be protected. A criminal penalty is appropriate for violating election law.

Kathleen Castagneto

self/retired

Dripping Springs, TX

The 20/20 election was rampant with fraud throughout the nation. It has been demoralizing and frankly embarrassing. Texas had its share of fraud which made national news and resulted in a prosecution. I watched the news in shock and disgust as the woman bragged about how she was earning money for every vote she collected. She even brought gifts to those whose ballots she collected. A dear friend of mine had an unrequested ballot sent to her for her son who lives in another state. This should not happen. It is imperative that criminal penalties be strong enough to prevent fraud in our elections. There needs to be a special legal process to stop illegal practices that impact elections. The provision to expedite election challenges protect the integrity of the election because if the illegal acts can't be stopped legal voting is not protected.

Robin Hill

No affiliation

Arlington, TX

Protect Texas' voting integrity.

Lana Brogan

EIB

Tomball, TX

Thank you for fighting to strengthen Texas election laws. Please add: Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots and
Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.

Lew Whiting

Self/ Land surveyor

Houston, TX

Restrictions on access to voter registration, polling stations, and shortening polling hours are all forms of voter suppression. If you can't honestly win the majority of the popular vote, without making it harder for American voters to participate, you're not truly representing the will of the Democracy. This is sickening, respond to the cares majority of the citizens casting votes instead of bending the rules unjustly for personal gain. Voter suppression of any type is undemocratic and the type of things that dictators and politicians in 3rd world countries do. We're supposed to be setting the example not acting like spoiled kids not getting their way and throwing a temper tantrum. If we don't allow as many American citizens as possible to participate, how can we walk around calling this an authentic Democracy? Taxation without representation is the idea that we used to fuel the revolution that created our country. THIS IS AMERICA. GOD BLESS US ALL. Not a select few or specific race. God's will is to love our neighbors as thyself period. Not shut people out and set the rules against them. Open your heart and your mind to the truth we're all in this together, otherwise the country will eventually fail regardless who's in charge.

Vanessa Reed

self

Houston, TX

AGAINST

Angela Villescaz

LULAC

Kyle, TX

All Texans deserve fair, free and equal access to the ballot box. HB6 is going in the wrong direction.
We must not go backwards.

As a southern state with a recent history of intentionally purging Spanish surnames from the voter registration rolls, we must protect the integrity of our elections.

We have to restore the FULL protections of the Voting Rights Act and prevent discrimination in voting.

Richard Reedstrom

self / Sales Executive

Houston, TX

This bill is designed to negatively impact our cities in our state. There is no reason that Harris County, Tarrant County, Dallas County, Tarrant County, Bexar County, etc should be treated the same as Harrison County, Loving County, etc. More dense populations have different needs. If we must standardize, then start with the dense counties' needs and offer the same to the lower populated counties. Of course, that is a ridiculous concept. This bill is the same just in the other direction.

In addition, this bill creates vague and broad new crimes that infringe on the rights of all Texans.

This is simply bad legislation. It is not intended to help give Texans access to voting. Instead, it attempts to do the opposite. Our state typically has one of the lowest voter turnouts in the nation. Legislation like this is the reason. I believe that the best ideas should win. I believe that all Texan's voices should be heard. Anyone that votes for this bill clearly does not believe that.

To be very clear. This bill should not pass. It will harm our cities and our state. Please do not vote for this bad piece of legislation proposed by Rep Cain.

Ikenna Nsoedo, Student

Self

Houston, TX

Voting restrictions are bad and dangerous to democracy.

We want more participation not less. If you want to earn my vote, be a good, honest and fair minded politician.

The easier you make the voting process, the more the participation rate will be. Don't suppress voting by drudging up these draconian rules intended to prevent certain people from exercising their rights to vote .

Linda Nuttall

self

Houston, TX

I would like to make a statement in favor of HB 6, for voter integrity. I believe this bill will settle some of the attempts to weaken voter security we saw this past year. People will be encouraged to vote in person—which is the only sure way to be certain the person voting is the person entitled to vote that ballot. Right now absentee/mail-in ballots don't even require photo ID, a requirement I encourage adding to this bill.

This bill will set in law that we don't waste taxpayer dollars sending out mass vote-by-mail applications to people not entitled to vote that way. We clarify the illegality of voter harvesting. And we will increase transparency in the process by insisting on access to poll watchers. I suggest adding to the bill the requirement to update and clean up voter rolls well ahead of each election.

Robert Layton, Mr.

Self, Business Executive

Driftwood, TX

I support HB6 and it's efforts to protect election integrity in Texas. I also support the increase in criminal penalties for violation of the penal code related to elections and fraud.

It is important to my family, and those in my community of Dripping Springs, that the integrity of our elections are monitored very closely and protected. Without fair elections by valid and eligible voters, the electorate will lose confidence that their vote matters.

The damage that results from an electorate which does not trust the process of elections is a scary thought. The governing of our local communities, state and nation must be held to the highest legal AND ethical standards.

I ask that you support HB6. It is not a red or blue issue...it is red, white and blue.

Sincerely,

Robert Layton

Robert M Santini

Republican Party of TX

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. Please bring it up for a vote in committee and ask committee members to vote to pass it out of committee.

Robin Denio

Self. Realtor

Leander, TX

Bad actors have taken advantage of holes in the electoral process to alter the balance of elections, especially at the local level.

This bill seeks to address these issues by:

Strengthening poll watcher protection

Bringing about transparency by utilizing technology throughout the electoral process

Requiring a voter verifiable paper trail

Limiting the most common fraudulent practices and opportunities for fraudulent practices

Jennifer Lundquist

Self, Software Engineer

Garland, TX

Voter fraud has been proven time and time again to be nearly non-existent. In the recent elections the only attempted voter fraud has been from Republicans, who are the same people supporting this bill, who are the same people that have gerrymandered the state to falsely present the citizenry as mostly conservative, and who do everything they can to prevent minorities from voting. We see you, we know what you're trying to do, and we won't put up with it anymore.

Brandie Louck

Self

Austin, TX

The HB6 bill is a blatant at voter suppression. The 2020 election was fair, organized and mostly allowed the voters to vote without extraordinary effort. Texans deserve voting to be easier, not more difficult because Republicans fear that more people voting might mean they don't get elected. That's what is happening here and we see it and we won't stand for it. Texas deserves better. This is cowardice at its worst. I'm embarrassed by what the Texas legislation has become. Stop fighting progress and stop blocking fair voting rights.

Shawn Troxell, Ms.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I'm deeply concerned that Texas is making it harder to vote. Already it's easier to get a gun than to vote; that's sad and telling, isn't it?

HB6 will not help our right to vote; it will hinder it.

Elizabeth Wally

self

Dallas, TX

As Texan, I am embarrassed that this bill is even being considered. HB 6 seems to intentionally complicate voting! Why add unnecessary procedures that would subject voters, those assisting voters, and public officials to criminal penalties? We had a fair and secure election in Texas under terrible circumstances. The governor wisely lengthened Early Voting and things went smoothly.

Again, I ask why put in confusing provisions when voters require assistance? What we have now worked even in the pandemic with special challenges, like the voter finding out they tested positive.

It seems clear that whoever wrote this has not worked an election. To threaten volunteer workers with penalties and criminal proceedings is ridiculous and you would know this if you saw how seriously the election workers take their jobs.. These volunteer workers contribute their time to offer fellow citizens the ability to vote.

HB 6 adds to the challenges at the polling location if poll watchers (who are partisan appointees) can insert themselves into the already intense process, with partisan people right outside, often needing to be reminded of the rules. Adding a layer of partisan poll watchers inside is asking for trouble and for no reason!

Again, why on earth would you limit voting by mail which was so successful. Texas already is known for its voter suppression - don't increase it!

Melissa Rowell

self

Houston, TX

Thank you for fighting to strengthen Texas election laws. I support HB6 and would like these provisions added: Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots, and Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.

Debora Arrant

self

Plano, TX

HB 6 ~ I support this bill. I want in-person voting, which is more secure than mail in ballots. Additionally, each individual should request to be registered to vote and also register themselves. Allowing massive mail outs of unrequested registrations creates an opportunity for stealing registrations. Public officials should never be able to distribute unrequested vote-by-mail applications. Dead voters should absolutely be REMOVED from the rolls and poll watcher access (improved transparency) should increase, and let poll watchers actually get close enough to see what is truly happening. Punishments need to be set for people who do not follow election laws.

On a personal note, I am an election clerk in Collin County and have enjoyed it very much and made new friends, but I fear for

the integrity of our national election system. It is critical that we have fair elections. If there is overwhelming unfairness and cheating, why would I want to waste my time working 2 weeks of early voting plus election day for \$10 an hour? More importantly than the small stipend I receive, I work as an election clerk because I believe in the system and want to be helpful citizen and do my civic duty. If elections become a joke I will totally blow it off. My guess is that I won't be alone.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self, Retired

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes! Tightening the time frame for the dead to be removed from voter registration lists is critical: I saw evidence this week of 63 dead people voting in the Nov 2020 election, which will be brought to your committee by a friend of mine. Otherwise, protecting poll watchers, adding criminal penalties - the entire bill is excellent!

Isabelle Encela

Self

Austin, TX

This is an infringement on citizens rights to vote. Reducing the time to vote makes it more challenging for people who work during those times to vote, this mostly affects minorities. Making people with disabilities obtain doctors notes to get to vote by mail is an extreme burden for people who already have disabilities to deal with in the first place. And stopping outreach by stopping the sending of proactive vote by mail applications shows that you don't want to even reach AND SERVE people who don't even know that they have the ability to vote. Preventing people to offer rides, or the use of drive through voting or use of stadiums and convention centers also seems like a clear agenda that you don't want people to vote at all! Shame on you for considering these bills.

Germaquerite Brown

Self/Senior Accountant

Katy, TX

As a concerned citizen who gladly participates in the electoral process. It is my belief that one should have every right and opportunity afforded to them to be able to exercise their right to vote. Many work different hours, different shifts, and have multiple milestones that may prevent them from being able to vote on election date. I enjoy the right to be able to vote early and I enjoy the right to be able to do so in the time allotted each day of the week. The polling facilities and hours shouldn't be changed to assist or show favoritism to one political party. So many freedoms are being stripped from hard working citizens each day. Liberties that we could take for granted or rely on to thrive and live in today's society are now gone. What's next no freedom of speech or the right to even vote. Voter suppression is real and its ugly head is becoming more dominant in each election that takes place. Why aren't normal taxpayers citizens allowed to vote as they see fit or choose. Why does a law or bill come into play when something doesn't go one party's while. This isn't democracy its becoming a dictatorship. Do as I say not as you please. Can we not think for ourselves? Are we being forced to ultimately make a decision that will affect one political party over the other. Open your eyes wake up and see what's going on in the world today. People are sick and tired of not being heard, being disrespected, let down, passed over, and cheated out of what's rightfully theirs. Its time to stand up, speak out, and let our voices be heard. No voter suppression, no changes regarding redistricting, no more obstruction and denial from letting us vote. There is no voter fraud therefore let the process continue to speak for itself. Rise up, Stand up, Be heard, let me vote as I see fit so that I know I'm being heard and that my vote and my voice matters.

Janet Bridges

Self

Dallas, TX

Chairman Cain & Members of the Elections Committee:

My name is Janet L. Bridges. Since 1974, I have served in political campaigns, paid and unpaid. No telling how many doors I have knocked. I have legally assisted numerous qualified voters in filling out their mail ballot applications. I have signed ballots as a “witness,” following all state laws. My experience is that it is rare that paid and volunteer campaign workers deviate from State Law with respect to mail ballots. Under HB 6, I and many others would be criminals for facilitating qualified individuals to vote! To label people like me, who have devoted my life to the improving lives of people through civic, political engagement, facilitating people to vote, as a “vote harvester,” is insulting, demeaning, and disgusting. My father served in WW II along with many others who gave their lives so we could vote freely, and unencumbered. If you vote HB 6 out of this Committee, YOU are the criminals, not so-called “vote harvesters” like myself.

Janet L. Bridges, LMSW

Robert Jeter

Self, student

Pasadena, TX

As a presiding election judge my polling location is fair and secure. I would like to see more done to combat fraud and not dilute the results from my polling location. I do not want my voters disenfranchised by whatever irregularities are going on in other locations.

Evonne Kohon

Self Retired

Austin, TX

OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Alex Meed

Self, cybersecurity analyst

Austin, TX

Chair and members,

I generally try to make my comments substantive, but it's 12:05 a.m. on Thursday morning, I have a full-time job, and I expect that others will have many of the same concerns I have. I therefore write simply to express my vehement opposition to this bill and my hope that the committee will not recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Meed

Elizabeth Willis, Mrs.

Self Occupation: Consultant

Fort Worth, TX

I write to OPPOSE House Bill 6 for many reasons, including these key reasons:

I have been an election worker at polls during primary and general elections in Tarrant County over the last 20 years. I have firsthand knowledge of and experience with my fellow election workers who are always, to a person, committed, dedicated, and intent on running an efficient and fair polling place for voters on Election Day. They work hard and LONG hours running a polling place. I am completely opposed to the provision in HB 6 which would criminalize minor mistakes that a voter or election worker might make. It is difficult enough to recruit election workers. They should not be subject to criminal penalties for minor mistakes. Nor should voters. That is a ridiculous concept in both instances and is proof that this bill is simply intent on both stopping people from serving as election workers and stopping people from voting by intimidating them. That is wrong and is legislation completely unworthy of legislators who truly seek to serve voters and election workers.

Furthermore, I am unequivocally opposed to the HB 6 provision which would keep political parties from sending out mail ballot APPLICATIONS to voters. What possible harm is there in political parties having the ability to assist voters by providing a mail ballot application? It is NOT a ballot. It's an application for a ballot and it is the responsibility of the voter to request that ballot and return it, either in person or via the U.S. Postal service. Why do legislators seek to make it yet more difficult for Texas voters to even be able to APPLY for a ballot? The job of legislators is to serve the public and it seems to me as though making mail voting just a bit easier by enabling a political party to mail me a ballot application IS making things easier for me. Taking that away is making my life harder.

In 2020, because of Covid-19 and because I am a person with an underlying heart condition, it was imperative that I be able to vote a mail ballot. I received a mail ballot application from my political party and I used it to request a ballot from Tarrant County. The process was smooth and quite useful given my health condition and the pandemic. My 99-year-old mother made the same request of her political party in another Texas county and was able to receive the mail ballot application to request her ballot. These are important conveniences for Texans. When I grew up in Abilene, it was a community of people who HELPED their fellow citizens. It's time for Texas legislators to follow the lead of my fellow Abilenians and work as hard as you can to HELP Texans vote, not hinder them.

I oppose HB 6 and strongly encourage the House Elections Committee to reject it.

Katherine Hinchey
Volunteer Deputy Registrar
Katy, TX

I'm concerned that this law disenfranchises people who have a legal right to vote. It criminalizes any small mistakes made during voter registration. It makes it expensive and time-consuming for people with disabilities to "prove" their disability and vote. It makes the ballot box less accessible.

For these reasons and more, I find it diminishes our democracy. No Texan should stand for this: participating in our democracy is a foundational right.

Li-Ya Mar, Dr.
Self
ADDISON, TX

I OPPOSE HB 6. Hundreds of thousands of voters across Texas benefitted from the secure voting opportunities that HB 6 would close off. Voting would take much longer for the Dallas voters who voted on Election Day at the American Airlines Center since they would have many fewer machines to vote on. We should also encourage eligible voters to vote, not intimidate voting rights activists from registering eligible voters. It is unconscionable that we would put this type of barrier between our disabled

community and their right to vote.

Research and studies have shown that the falsified claims of voter fraud is BASELESS. Even the attorney of Donald Trump Sidney Powell has said no reasonable people would believe the ridiculous claim of election frauds. There is no election fraud. I demand the committee to vote no on HB6.

Milda Scott

Self, retired

Cibolo, TX

We do everything online these days. Why not register to vote online too? If banks can keep my money secure during online transactions then surely online voter registration isn't rocket science.

People are busy and work odd shifts, long hours, and multiple jobs. Voters need expanded voting hours. The longer early voting periods in 2020 were fantastic and eased the burden on election officials on Election Day: we should always have long early voting!

I support no-excuse vote by mail, so that voters can take their time to read, research, and understand what's on their ballot. I believe that if I have difficulty standing in line to vote, or if it is hard for me to stand at a voting machine to read through multiple ballot initiatives, the reason for my disability is certainly never going to be anybody's business but my own, and I should have the right to vote by mail from the comfort of my home.

Herman Waters, Jr.

Self; retired

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

Elections must be honest and held as our highest duty as a citizen. God hates liars! Everything is known to our Heavenly Father. Protect the integrity of our elections!

Regina Leon

self

Dallas, TX

Please add the following to the HB6 Bill:

- Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

- Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

- Make tampering with a vote a felony. Stack offenses

- Limit Early Voting to 3 days with NO gap between early voting and election day

- Fight Electronic election fraud! No electronic voting machines in polling locations, and no computers anywhere used to tabulate results, should be connected to the internet, or to any or to any network vulnerable to hackers.

Michael Burdick

self clergy

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of protecting the integrity of the ballot. The government of the people and by the people for the people can only function when the people can trust elections and exercise the power of the ballot. The power of the ballot is a peaceful power. Fair

elections conducted with utmost integrity protect the peace of a nation. Texas can do a better job of protecting our elections from election fraud and insuring the confidence of the citizens of Texas. Elections need to be able to be investigated during elections by poll watchers and they need to be accurately investigated after the election by a paper trail and accounting of every ballot. The identity of every voter must be checked and only valid, alive, legal votes should be counted.

MICHAEL FOSSUM

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

I ask that the Elections Committee approve and vote out of committee HB 6. HB 6 will help prevent election fraud in Texas. This is essential as in many states the 2020 election for President, Vice President, and the Georgia senate runoffs were riddled with fraud.

The legacy media and the Washington establishment denies there was any fraud. However, you can see evidence of this fraud documented by Peter Navarro's report "The Immaculate Deception." The report is in 3 volumes: Volume 1-Immaculate Deception (detailed analysis of various fraud in several states), Volume 2-Art Of The Steal (combined fraud methods tabulated in matrices), and Volume 3-Yes, President Trump Won (final report with total fraud tallies per state). The report can be found at <https://navarreport.com> . There is also an article at <https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2020/12/yes-it-was-stolen-election-john-perazzo/> .

Please approve and vote out of committee HB 6. Thank you.

Beth Jewell

SelfSB6

Austin, TX

Through trying to prevent fraud (rarely happens), many votes are suppressed. Especially the disabled and the poor. Please serve all your constituents. It is your job, right?

Amy Harris

self

Austin, TX

I disagree with this, you all are trying to make voting harder especially for POC. Stop it.

JANIS REINKEN

Self / Attorney

AUSTIN, TEXAS, TX

March 25, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Co-Authors of H.B. 6,

There are 3 basic components of a well-managed, legal election: proper registration of qualified voters, properly processing the votes of qualified voters, and properly counting and reporting the voting results. Your job as legislators is to facilitate those aspects of the election process, not impede them.

I oppose House Bill 6 because it does not facilitate full and fair elections.

I oppose House Bill 6 because it sets up a veritable minefield of CRIMINAL offenses (not just ADMINISTRATIVE penalties) for

volunteers, voter registrars, voter assistants, and election workers for making an error or mistake in regard to their tasks and duties.

Instead, it impedes the rights of qualified voters to register and cast their votes confidentially and without hindrance or intimidation. It interferes with the responsibilities of election workers and officials to do their jobs well and correctly, without being controlled, interrupted and intimidated by the actions of external poll-watchers who are not election workers. It appears the Bill would cause these volunteers, election workers and officials to defend the accusations at their own expense, even if they made an unintentional mistake or acted in good faith in a ministerial capacity.

Passing this Bill would be an extreme legislative overreach. It is a heavy-handed approach to creating solutions in response to problems that are minimal or do not exist. It aims a sledge-hammer at a gnat, while proclaiming victory over the fictional intergalactic villain, Thanos.

Your sworn oath of responsibility requires you to uphold the laws and Constitution of the United States, and that includes protecting the rights of voters rooted in the 14th, 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments.

Please concentrate on doing that, and stop treating voters and election workers and officials like they are your enemies. It doesn't matter what political party you represent: you still need them, or there won't be any elections.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Reinken

Frank Netscher

Texas State Employees Union

AUSTIN, TX

"The working families of the state labor federation will oppose any bills that tend to make voting harder for working people, especially historically disenfranchised people of color and people with disabilities. SB 7 and HB 6 are voter suppression, pure and simple." - afl-cio

Gregory Young

Self/Pastor

Bandera, TX

Our Constitutional Republic form of government is only as strong as a free and fair election process exists to maintain it. In our recent past we have been the ones that were asked to go to other countries to ensure they had legal and fair elections. This bill will assist in restoring that leadership role in election integrity again. Please vote yes.

Liz Case Pickens

Self retired teacher

Dallas, TX

As a member of the Legislative Priorities Committee at state convention in Houston this summer, we heard three days of testimony at a convention that the delegates never attended. These people traveled to give testimony and then had to travel back home to attend the convention online. Election integrity was a top priority of the 6000 delegates at the convention.

* I believe our first priority has to be to get committed to prosecution. I learned that of the attorney generals staff of 4000 people he has only four individuals dedicated to Voter Fraud. That sends the clear message that we are not taking this issue seriously. We need stricter penalties for incidents of election fraud crimes.

*We must have enforced use of Voter ID laws to ensure every legal registered voter gets a vote that counts.

*The voter rolls must be cleaned up and all non-voters must be removed.

*The period of early voting should be shortened to only one week.

* The vote by mail system has got to be improved to illuminate the massive fraud that has taken place in the past. Only voters who are elderly, disabled or out of town for business purposes.

** When citizens believe that their vote no longer matters they will disengage from the process completely and our representative form of government will collapse. It is up to every single one of you, since this is a non-partisan issue, to ensure that every Texas citizen knows that their vote counts. By crafting expert election integrity legislation other states will look to the example that we as Texans set. Texans have always been strong leaders and it is up to you to uphold that tradition.

Diana Carranza

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because it will make the casting of legal votes harder than it already is. The Secretary of State has said our elections are and have been secure, so there is no reason to put forward all these regulations that will ultimately mean fewer people vote.

Mary Heffernan

Independent

Austin, TX

Please support this bill. It is imperative that we preserve the issues experienced with the integrity of anyone's legal right to vote. Their vote as submitted needs to be protected from the ballot box clear to the county elections process and not be tampered with. Increasing criminal penalties for an offense by a election worker (including ballot harvesting, and helps protect that vote and makes it clear that this is a serious error and is an offense against a person's voting right, and the actual candidates running to serve. We need to prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications for ANYONE. Also, increasing poll watchers and their access provides transparency. Ask yourself why any elections office in any part of TX does not like transparency and fights to prevent this... As an elections worker, in person voting is secure and also better provides management of election integrity with id, etc. It also provides an alternate opportunity with a provisional vote if needed. We also need to do a better job with the voters who have died. I don't see how we file a death certificate and the county is aware but they can't delete them from the voter rolls. MANY widowers tell us they request this many times and they are IGNORED by local officials who could manage these voter rolls. Thank you.

Lewis Lockett, Pastor

High Risers Ministry USA

Cypress, TX

AGAINST HB6.

Lisa Dickison

Self, not employed

WACO, TX

I enthusiastically support this bill. As an election judge in McLennan County, I have seen opportunities for election fraud although thankfully I've never personally observed them. I especially like the sections about watchers. Poll watching is very important. I have heard of poll watchers being sent away for no good reason. Poll watchers are especially important in areas that are controlled by a single party. The minority party should have a way of knowing that their interests are being guarded. Watchers are to be encouraged and protected from party bias by having specific rules on when and how they may be asked to leave.

Suntera Scott
NAACP
Sugarland, TX

Against this bill

Edna Krueger, Mrs
Myself
Odessa, TX

Please vote for SB7 and vote it to go out of committee to go to floor vote. Please know that this bill protects the bases of our foundation of our country. Without integrity in our voting system we do not have the building blocks for a strong free country as we have had for 230 years. Please, please vote for SB7 and protect our election process we value so much. Thank you

Mark Camann, Dr.
Self, Instructor
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 6. We already have fair elections in Texas that are free of fraud. This bill would severely curtail voting by mail and would intimidate voters and election officials with criminal penalties for actions that are not fraudulent. Such voter intimidation would infringe upon voters' rights and would reduce participation in elections.

Roy Smith, Pastor
Self
Florence, TX

Please remove waiver provisions that allow changes to election laws without legislative approval
Thank you

Karen Ingram
Self
Comfort, TX

Our votes need to count. We must show ID to write a check, buy alcohol, get on a plane, etc. Secure our votes, secure our elections. Increase penalties and criminal offenses!

D. Shawn Stevens
Self - Attorney
Dallas, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 6. As an attorney whose practice includes election law, and as someone who formerly served 3 terms as County Chair in a large suburban county in charge of over 200 primary election judges and clerks during multiple primary elections; who has served as an election judge over 20 times total in multiple Texas counties over several decades; who

has served as the Early Voting Ballot Board Judge in multiple primary elections; who has served as Early Voting Ballot Board Alternate Judge in multiple general elections; and who has trained hundreds of poll watchers over the decades in addition to having been a poll watcher myself many times, the language of this bill is troubling and will in my estimation increase the risk of potential conflict within the polling locations themselves.

The language I find the most troubling with regards to its potential to lead to conflict in the polling locations is language prohibiting removal of poll watchers by a presiding election judge except in the case of election fraud -- including election fraud as defined by Tex. Election Code 276.13. The language of the Introduced version of HB 6 is extremely overbroad, to the point that the bill as written wouldn't even allow a presiding judge to have a poll watcher removed for violating Tex. Penal Code Sec. 46.03(a) -- the Texas law prohibiting the carrying of a firearm into a polling location -- with the poll watcher seemingly able under the introduced bill's language to be able to openly carry and bring a weapon, including a firearm such as a handgun, into the polling location with impunity -- as long as the presiding judge doesn't consider the presence of a firearm-carrying poll watcher "to influence the independent exercise of the vote of another in the presence of the ballot or during the voting process."

Assuming a watcher doesn't bring a gun into the polling location, the overbroad language prohibiting watcher removal also increases the risk of conflict within the polling location because it does not allow for the presiding judge to have a watcher removed or ask them to leave if the watcher refuses to comply with the blanket peacekeeping provisions of Tex. Election Code Sec. 33.058, entitled "Restrictions on Watcher's Activities" that judges use to manage watchers (including 33.058(3) that prohibits the poll watcher from communicating with voters in any manner) -- again as long as in the presiding election judge's judgment the poll watcher's communication with a voter does not "influence the independent exercise of the vote of another." Furthermore, if a presiding judge is of the same party as the political party that appointed the poll watcher (in the case of watchers appointed by a party official), or if the presiding judge supports the candidate (in the case where a poll watcher is appointed by a given candidate), with the judgment call involved there's added risk that the presiding judge will not treat all poll watchers equally.

Davida Bilgrad

Self

Austin, TX

Texas is constantly seeking ways to suppress the vote. Texas seems bent on making sure that it is harder and harder, particularly for people of color to exercise their right to one man/woman/one vote. Why? What do you fear? Present ideas and let the citizens decide. We kept having to pay for our ridiculous AG lawsuits that even with conservative judges, were tossed out. We have a governor who always blames anyone other than his incompetence be it in the managing of a weather crisis or voting when no errors were even found. A society flourishes only when allowed to flourish. Just being a cheaper, warmer place to live is not enough. Stop trying to be a state of keeping people down. You already do not fund education or health care. What else must you wreck in the name of unfounded voter fraud. STOP please!! Thank you.

Julie Loeb

Self

Cypress, TX

Americans deserve integrity in our process to elect state officials, federal officials, and local government. Proof of identification should be required, vote in person should be required and anyone assisting against the process should be held criminally liable. We the people should have confidence in our system.

Charles Busbey, Maj(ret.)

self, retired

Dripping Springs, TX

The fraud that took place in the 2020 election (in other states) is intolerable. I have a friend who was part of the investigating team into this fraud and he told me that fraud was discovered but completely ignored by authorities who should have pursued the matter. We must insist on severely limiting any mail-in votes, any early votes, and we must not allow "ballot-harvesting."

Ishrat Kundawala

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and urge you to vote AGAINST it. I believe in our democracy and have worked as a GOTV volunteer in several elections now in order to ensure that every eligible voter can exercise their right to vote. I've canvassed neighborhoods, I've written postcards, and I've made countless phone calls. In doing so I've seen & heard firsthand how difficult it was for eligible voters to know when and how to request a mail in ballot. Some voters did not know where to access an application and believed that if they voted by mail the previous year or are 65 or over, then they were going to automatically receive one. I had to inform several voters that they actually need to send in an application every year they intend to vote by mail and help them request that ballot. I don't think that providing voters that vital information and service should be considered a crime, and this bill could make it so. I'd love to be able to continue volunteering my time for the democracy that I care so passionately about. Thank you.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Please vote for this bill. IT GOES a long way to ensure the integrity of our elections, prevent fraud and without inconveniencing voters.

Martha Dolese

Self/retail clerk

Luling, TX

Since voter fraud is not a problem, I oppose restrictions of any kind to our right to vote in Texas.

Kyekyeku Opoku-Pong

Self

Katy, TX

I am against HB 6.

Michelle Orcutt

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Free, Fair and Secure elections are the most important right of a free people. It is the #1 sacred duty of our elected officials to ensure elections are free and FAIR. Voter ID, hours of operation that are broad, a beginning and END of the election process, enough places to vote to offer broad access. NO ballot harvesting, limits to mail in voting to NEED. No government official

should be allowed to sign agreements to alter the voting process as defined and made law by the legislature for any reason including health issues such as COVID. Free, FAIR and secure. Fraud should come with stiff penalties that should include full recounts, and if appropriate revote.

Cathy Johnson
Concerned Voter
Houston, TX

Passage of this bill equates to voter discrimination. Evidence show scant voter fraud in Texas elections. This is a blatant attempt by the GOP to suppress the votes of minority voters in Texas. The right to vote is guaranteed in our Constitution. Republicans should spend more time protecting Texans from mass shootings than trying to strip citizens of their rights

kimberly shambley
self; lawyer
dallas, TX

HB 6 is a commendable start by the House, and can further be improved upon by:

- Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

David Thompson
Self/Education
Houston, TX

Against

Gabriela Ahlheim, Mrs
self
Azle, TX

I am an Ex-Californian who witnessed with my own eyes the voting flaws in my once home state of California. I can tell you firsthand that ballot harvesting was a gold mine for many Democrats in California to ambush our election system. They use every union group member to go out and collect ballots in favor of their Democrat candidates. They have been very successful with this system in California and now seek to roll it out to the entire nation. I have also witnessed people receive more than two ballots, one with their maiden name and another with their married name. California's sanctuary state laws have allowed many illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses and many know how to work the system to obtain social security numbers too. This easily opens up the ability for illegal aliens to vote. In the City of San Francisco, CA non-Citizens are allowed to vote in school board elections. If we don't clean up our election system in Texas we will end up like California. Our family and I did not pack up everything to sit idly and watch Texas go to waste. I urge you to vote yes on HB 6 and protect election integrity laws.

Amanda Braddy
self - Video Editor
Cypress, TX

I'd like to register my opposition against the proposed legislation. Why is our state government wasting time on a bill like this to make voting HARDER for its citizens? There is absolutely no reason to eliminate all of the accommodations that made voting in 2020 easier and, quite frankly, more pleasant than it ever has been in the past. Things such as drive through voting, extended voting hours, extended early voting made voting more accessible.

Unless the point of this is to try and make voting a chore, to try to restrict access of voting so that fewer people do it. And whoever is reading this and thinking "voter fraud", just stop. It's been disproven again and again and again and again. Voter fraud is not the issue at stake here. The issue at stake here is that the state of Texas doesn't want its citizens to vote. So vote against this law, and stop wasting time with pointless things like this, and maybe, I don't know, actually put rules and regulations to fix our power grid? Just a thought.

Cheryl Lamb

A registered Texas voter

El Paso, TX

Voting rights should be expanded. The increase in voters during a pandemic PROVES that easier access instills the will of the people and their Constitutional Rights to a FAIR election. There has been NO basis for claims of fraud that would allow this obtuse bill to be passed.

Melissa Bill, Mrs.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am in favor of restoring integrity to elections by preventing fraud with Bill HB 6. Our presidential election was NOT investigated, evidence ignored and we are now living the consequences. It is shameful that our freedoms have been taken away because the Constitution is being ignored. We have imposters in the White House; dangerous! Please stand with our forefathers and restore this country!

Crisarla Houston, Esq.

Self, Attorney

Waco, TX

The Texas legislature's efforts to make it harder for Texans to vote are unconscionable and should cease. If changes are made to the voting procedures, those changes should go further to lift impediments to voting. Voting is a fundamental right in our democracy. Voters are watching you all over the state and nation. We will unite to vote you out of office if you support this egregious attack on voting rights. It is clear that your efforts to pass laws that make it harder for Texans to vote are aimed at people of color who do not typically vote Republican. This assault on Texans' voting rights for these baseless and unjust reasons will be remembered at the polls. Remove impediments to fair and impartial elections if you do anything to change Texas laws on voting. Cease this disgraceful effort to suppress votes, and accept that the will of the people will be expressed at the polls regardless of whether you agree or disagree with the people. Voters will become more educated and motivated to protect their interests at the polls. Voters will not be bullied or silenced. We have a right to vote and to participate in this representative democracy. Do not pass unjust laws to hinder our ability to vote. We are watching you and are ready to stand up for our right to vote every time the polls open. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do the right thing and stop all efforts to make it harder for Texans to vote. You have a moral obligation to do the right thing.

Christopher De La Torre

Convention of States

Leander, TX

States like Nevada have thousands of false voter information with no liability or integrity to change their mistakes. Criminal charges should ensue if that were to happen to here or anywhere.

Maria Cavazos

Self

Houston, TX

Good Morning to all Committee members,

I am writing to support bill HB 6. This bill is the core foundation of what a Successful and legal voting process should consist of.

This HB6 Bill will help Enhance and protect Election Integrity in future elections.

As a citizen of Harris County whom worked as an election Clerk in the 2020 General Election this HB 6 Bill focuses on strengthening the ballot box, increases penalties, and creates criminal offenses.

Jill Carley

Self

Cypress, TX

Like many after the November 2020 election I do not want to vote again. How can we be certain our hotel will count and not be changed? Please keep voter ID and cut back mail in voting to those that only need it.

The 2020 election was a shit show!

Kristi Meno

Self - HR Manager

Porter, TX

As a poll watcher in the November 2020 election, I saw questionable activities in my polling place and know that other Harris County GOP poll watchers experienced over 30 types of fraudulent activity at the polls in our county. We must make the outcomes harsh and certain to ensure we stamp out voter fraud in our Texas counties.

Charly Spiker

Self

Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Krista Keosheyman

self

Austin, TX

Please do not make it more difficult to vote in Texas! We must make it easier for all eligible Texans to access the polls. Other states like Colorado & Utah have ALL ballot by mail & they have been doing it successfully - WITHOUT FRAUD - for years. It's apparent in HB6 that Texas Republicans are trying to suppress the votes of Texans in urban areas because these areas have more Democratic voters. The totally unnecessary restrictions of HB6 & SB7 will impact voters of color more than white voters AND the restrictions are based on false information regarding voter fraud. Laws should NEVER be made using false information. Please reject Jim Crow style voter suppression tactics using unproven, debunked conspiracy stories instead of evidence and facts. Please do not pass this terrible bill out of committee. Thank you.

Michelle Austin

self/HR

FRISCO, TX

Please pass and support election integrity. Fraudulent voting is not the standard to obtain, it's the behavior of a thief. Theft is a crime and criminal voting should be treated as the criminal activity it is.

Dennis Botkin, Quality Engineer

JBS

Richardson, TX

I oppose the HB 6 Bill for the following reasons.

True Texas Elections' mission is to ensure that computerized vote counting is done legally, transparently, and accurately so that our votes are counted as we cast them.

While we really like most of House Bill 6, we strongly oppose it because it gives the Texas Sec. of State unprecedented power to make "alterations" to election laws and rules. See page 20 of the filed bill.

HB 6 wins the Most Unconstitutional Bill Award.

The Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 28 clearly states that only the Texas Legislature can suspend laws. No public official can waive or suspend laws.

The Texas Government Code Chapter 2001 clearly states advanced public notice and public comment are required to adopt or change rules.

Douglas Winkler

Republican voter

Deipping springs, TX

No harvesting votes Thru mail in ballots

Donna Walden

Self

Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill to strengthen election integrity. I feel it could be an even stronger prevention if voter ID was included in all aspects of the voting process. Please consider that as well.

Mark McCaig

Texas Republican Initiative

Houston, TX

Texas Republican Initiative strongly supports HB 6, which will ensure the integrity of Texas elections. HB 6 will ensure that every legal vote counts, and that legal votes are not diluted by votes cast in a fraudulent manner. This bill in no way limits the right of an eligible voter to cast their vote, nor does it disenfranchise eligible voters. We thank Chairman Cain for his leadership on this important issue.

Stella Cobbin

nAACP

Katy, TX

Voters should have the right to vote by mail, drive through, early voting, and voting should be open longer times especially to allow people to vote.

Larry Williams

US Citizen

Katy, TX

Against HB6

Linda Nelson

LINDA Nelson's extended family

Westworth village, TX

I am in complete agreement with HB6. This must be done to save our country from a total corrupt takeover of our country and sate. Thanks, LINDA Nelson

Margaret Eden

self-publisher

McKinney, TX

We must have election integrity and ethical behavior among all people involved in our election process or we will no longer have a country. Please, for the sake of everyone bring this bill to the floor for a vote "yes" for election integrity and the preservation of ballot box. We should vote on paper, maintain chain of command and retain all ballots. No mail in ballots w/out prior request. Deadlines for ballots observed, only citizens with ID may vote.

Lucas Land

self

Waco, TX

There is not enough evidence that voter fraud is a widespread problem that actually effects the outcome of elections. The real problem is voter suppression and preventing eligible citizens from being able to vote. Instead of wasting time with these bills meant to restrict and suppress voting there should be bills making it easier to vote, providing a national holiday, same day registration and expanding voting centers to make it easier to vote. This is an attempt to suppress the vote especially of minorities and should be dismissed as unconstitutional and racist.

Cyndie Phillips

Self/retired

Magnolia, TX

Thank you for fighting to strengthen Texas's election laws. Please also consider adding these provisions to HB 6:

Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Respectfully,
Cyndie Phillips

Janis and Kenneth Friedrich

FTP

Doss, TX

We oppose this bill because it gives too much power to one person and takes away power from the Texas legislature; please rectify the bill by removing waiver. Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Zarzuelo, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

There is zero evidence of an issue with fraud in our voting system. This bill prevents 21st century access to voting. This is a political mistake. You are behind in the times and it will result in your ultimate downfall. HB 6 is ludicrous and you should be ashamed of wasting time and energy on this instead of fixing government and doing the job people really need from you.

Shellee Adkins

Self

Huntsville, TX

Strengthening poll watcher protection

Bringing about transparency by utilizing technology throughout the electoral process

Requiring a voter verifiable paper trail

Limiting the most common fraudulent practices and opportunities for fraudulent practices
Providing better and more timely evidence in investigations into alleged voter fraud

Kathy Turner

Self, retired

McGregor, TX

Support this bill

Velvete Rojuginboka

Self - Registered Nurse

Highlands, TX

I need easy voting

I'm 70yrs old

I'm in cancer treatment

Mary Corbin

HCRP

Houston, TX

Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations to vet and verify the status of each voter record based on, at a minimum, the criteria:

- Life status, such as age, residence, sound mind, living or dead

- Legal US citizenship (not the freely granted and fast path US citizenship for illegal immigrants). Use the REAL ID ACT, DHS, plus vital records. Tools to automate and frequently access these tools to keep the data up to date and mark voter records active and not active, then archived.

- If student out of state, ensure student votes only once.

Restrict curbside voting to the real reasons. No drive through voting. We witnessed voters abusing curbside voting because of COVID.

Even with a procedure, make it a law that the tabulation system is fully air-gapped and secure from outside interference. Ensure both parties at the tabulation center. Control adm/root access to the systems and have both parties overlook adms and root users at all times. No external devices allowed. Finish counting the night of the election.

Mary Corbin

swe

Houston, TX

- Limit the number of early voting dates.

Paul Breaux, Mr

Concerned white voter

Leander, TX

We need to be encouraging democracy in Texas instead of suppressing it.
Make it easier to vote instead of putting up roadblocks for political reasons.

Anna Bartosh, Pct chair 230
San Angelo Republicans women
San Angelo, TX

I have worked elections for years and no one has been denied the ability to vote. We need to ensure the integrity of our elections. Require a photo ID, no drive through voting, no ballot harvesting, no drop boxes and restrictions on mail in voting. I am in support of H B 6 and safe and secure elections.

Roberta Rincon, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Gregory Kemp
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

This is an obvious attempt at voter suppression. We should be looking for ways to make it easier to vote, not more difficult. I am strongly opposed to this measure.

Cindy V Fountain
self/merchandise
Cleburne, TX

Good morning,
I'm Cindy Fountain, and I live in zip 76033.

I want to register my opposition to HB 6. The crux of this bill is that it does not foster fair elections, nor a democratic society. It makes voting harder for our most vulnerable citizens, and it makes it harder for citizens, like me, to take an active part in the electoral process. I've been a volunteer deputy voter registrar and election monitor, and an elections worker, for almost 15 years. Voters, election workers and volunteers are needed to make elections fair in a democratic society, and, again HB 6, is in direct opposition to this.

Thank you for taking my comment and then acting on it for a free and fair democracy.

Susan Bynam, Ms.
Self/Asst Dean/Higher Ed Administrator
Houston, TX

I view this bill as being more harmful than good, as it presents tactics to suppress votes, particularly in African American communities.

Not in favor.

Veronica Collazo, Dr.

Self

Tarpley, TX

The election process should be made easier and not harder to facilitate the participation of all eligible voters. It is unconscionable to impose restrictions on the voting process that limits participation in the election process.

Taylor Bazajou

Self

San Antonio, TX

House Bill 6 is fundamentally anti-democratic, anti-voter assaults on the right to vote. Last year's election showed that we can increase voter turnout and keep our elections secure if we adopt common-sense reforms. Instead, Jim Crow tactics such as ones in this bill are trying to make it more difficult to vote.

Texas is already one of the hardest states to vote in in the country. Legislators on both sides of the aisle should be expanding the right to vote, not restricting it.

Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy. The state should be doing everything it can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Last year's increase in voter participation shouldn't be seen as partisan—it should be seen as good for our democracy. This bill is dangerous, anti-democratic and must be blocked.

Evelyn Montalvo

Republican Women of Katy

Richmond, TX

Please include photo ID or some type of verification for persons requesting ballots by mail. GA just passed such legislation.

We also need scheduled maintenance of Texas voter rolls. We need Proof of citizenship for people who register to vote. Those who are registered by Deputy Voter registrars or submit directly to SOS or elections (do not go through DPS) are not currently required to provide proof of citizenship.

There are three federal databases that track non-citizens. They are e-verify, SSOLV and SAVE. Texas voter rolls can be run against these three databases to screen for non-citizens currently on Texas voter rolls.

Angelika Hoehner

Self/retired

Lorena, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 6. Thank you Chairman Cain and the 39 other Representatives who have signed on to this bill!

I am a naturalized citizen and I take great offense at reports of election fraud, particularly fraud that facilitates the vote of foreign nationals. I believe that voting is a right granted only to legal US citizens and is not to be diminished through practices such as ballot harvesting, illegal voter registration and unauthorized use of mail-in ballots. The 2020 general election has shown the public the extent of election fraud in the United States.

HB 6 includes several provisions that will enhance election integrity in the state of Texas. First, it mandates that the election code be uniformly and consistently enforced throughout the entire state. Furthermore, it endorses the purging of deceased voters from the voting rolls through a mandated process. In addition, this bill protects the rights of our volunteer poll workers from harassment and arbitrary removal from the polling place. Finally, outlining activities that can lead to a state jail felony, is essential. I support stiff penalties for election fraud. This should include appointed and elected officials and government entities. This includes election judges. I support the expedited review of election fraud in the courts. None of the provisions in this bill constitute voter suppression, as the Democrats imply, instead they constitute the rule of law a foundation of our society.

Thank you for your hard work on this bill. I support a positive vote on HB 6 and a move to send it to the calendar committee for action.

Angelika Hoeher

Mariah Boone

Self, mother

Corpus Christi, TX

We lost my daughter Mimosa in April at the age of 24 to the complications of treating a terrible rare disease that had caused her to become very disabled in the last couple of years of her life.

Mimosa voted for the first time on her 18th birthday and from that point on, for the rest of her short life, she never missed a single election. She personally registered thousands of people to vote in her years as a volunteer deputy voter registrar. One of the very last places we went together before she died last spring was to vote. Voting meant so much to her.

That last time we went to vote, Mimosa was on oxygen, she was in a back brace for the two places where her back was broken, she could not walk and could barely transfer in and out of the wheelchair (with a lot of help). She was in constant pain.

She insisted that we vote, though.

She could not have done it alone. She could not have done it without accommodations. She could not have gotten anywhere without our help at that point. When we got to the poll, I had to go in and get the poll worker who had to come out and help her to vote curbside.

HB 6 makes it harder for people with disabilities to vote. It puts in place onerous , expensive documentation requirements for folks to get disability accommodations to cast their votes. It threatens people who help people with disabilities to vote with criminal prosecution if they accidentally mess up any part of the procedure. These provisions disenfranchise voters with disabilities by putting unconscionable barriers in the way of their ability to exercise their right to vote.

Please do not disenfranchise voters like my daughter was, who care so much about being good citizens and deserve to have their voices heard. Please vote NO on HB 6 to protect the voting rights of people with disabilities.

Lynn Wilkinson

Self

Austin Travis County, TX

HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. I urge you to vote against this bill. This bill makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted. I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Mary Fallert, Mrs.

Self

Crandall, TX

Please remove the waiver attached to the bill. This is a great bill and I give it my support EXCEPT the waiver regarding Secretary of State being allowed to suspend or alter the election laws. No one except the legislature should be allowed to suspend election laws. (Page 20 of the bill), according to the Texas Constitution.

Thank you

Mary Fallert

Cornelius Booker

Fort bend county

richmond, TX

This is voter suppression tactics and I refuse to support anyone who moves to pass this Bill.

joan meza

self

Bacliff, TX

It is imperative we make changes to keep elections fair for the citizens of Texas. Photo ID should be required, no drive thru voting, no ballot harvesting, no drop boxes, and mail -in voting should have restrictions. There are even more issues - but we need to make our elections safe & secure for all - no matter your race, color, or creed. It is a joke that we need photo ID at pharmacies and recreational theme parks but not to vote, Same day registration and ballot harvesting are both desired by some to afford opportunities for fraud. A repeat of past fraud which has gone without consequence will totally destroy the public's confidence in our system and the persons whom win these fraudulent elections. When we have a population that has no respect for or confidence in our government we will see dire consequences.

Dynisha Klugh

Self

HOUSTON, TX

I'm opposed to HB 6 and any similar bill that seeks to suppress the votes of African Americans. Do not pass HB 6.

Katharine Samaniego

Self, records analyst

Austin, TX

Stop voter suppression! Voter fraud is a distraction, not a real problem.

Jeanette Rebold Rost

Self retired

Weir, TX

I object to waiver(s) allowing Secretary of State to void elections laws and regulations.

Charles Simmons

self

Houston, TX

I agree with this bill because it is necessary to:

Encourage in-person voting, which is more secure

Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications

Bans ballot harvesting

Increase poll watcher access (improved transparency)

This bill is a commendable start by the House, and can further be improved upon by adding:

Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

We must stop the rampant election fraud that exists, stop the thought that it is OK and has no penalties, and prosecute voter fraud.

Carolyn Salter, Dr

Self, physician in private practice, former Mayor of Palestine, Texas; former Congressional Candidate

Palestine, TX

Oppose this bill. Please. Passing this bill creates an injustice where there was none before. This bill is meant to intimidate voters both of color and the aged and disabled. There is no meaningful voter fraud in Texas although I personally know Republicans who voted by mail illegally for convenience and thought nothing of it. It may exist but Texas has enough problems so maybe if Republicans started addressing problems instead of catering to the rich and corporations, The GOP would not have to cheat to win elections. 72% of Ken Paxton's voter fraud prosecutions target people of color. This is a new Republican Jim Crow law. However, the Republican party candidates here in Anderson County openly talk about harvesting votes from nursing homes. A lot of Republican seniors have died or become so housebound that mail in voting will be the only option. Most are not technically disabled. I would love the doctor's note part of this bill. I get to decide? Terrific. If passed, this will be a powerful tool to use against the vote harvesting going on with Republicans in East Texas. Pass it and see how it motivates people to get to the polls and kick out incumbents!

Reuben Leslie

self, retired

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 6 and urge that it be withdrawn. Altogether, it would make it harder, not easier, for all voters to vote; and it would practically make it impossible for some who lack reliable transportation, Internet access, and postal service, all at additional taxpayer costs and inconvenience to voters.

Mika Ryan
Self, Retired
Southlake, TX

Election fraud MUST be rooted out throughout the state of Texas with enforceable legislation/laws to protect those of us who are honest and believe only LEGAL votes should count. Violations need to be treated as a felony!

Nora Zaizar
Voter
Kerrville, TX

*****ACTION ALERT*****

I strongly oppose HB 6. I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.

Inda Simmons
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass this necessary bill to:
Encourage in-person voting, which is more secure
Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications
Bans ballot harvesting
Increase poll watcher access (improved transparency)

We must stop denying that election fraud exists, prevent it and prosecute it.

Bill Penn
self music agency
BUDA, TX

I support HB 6

Kristin Hayes, Dr.
Self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

OPPOSE

Liz Biesel

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Everyone should input this message: Election Integrity Reform is THE legislative priority.

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are in denial about failures to identify election fraud in Texas, including the use of computers.

We are fed up with “go along to get along” “business as usual” state politics. Who is our Champion? We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems and logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever!

1) 100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

2) Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

3) Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

4) Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention.

Armistead Burks

Self Real Estate Developer

Houston, TX

I’m opposed. Stop trying to suppress the vote!

Frank Holman, Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

Recommend changes:

Allocate monies from civil penalties collected from election law violations to state departments that work as kogs in the election integrity wheel. (SOS specifically for verifying/cleaning voter rolls, TX AG attorneys specifically to investigate & prosecute election law violations/fraud, etc.)

Outline specific felony penalties & enforcement mechanisms for any elected official, appointed person(s), &/or admin tasked to oversee/work in TX elections not performing their duties.

Eliminate outside money such as Mark Zuckerberg did here in Texas.

Provide poll watchers training.

I am for the Bill

Thomas Lancaster

Self (architect)

The Woodlands, TX

If you are going to do this correctly, you must require a voter ID for everyone, including who vote by mail, or by absentee ballots. (Actually, I think all voting should be done in person.) Also, the existing voter rolls need to be verified on a regular basis, since there have been too many recorded instances of voting by people who have passed away, or who have moved elsewhere, or who have recently registered under false circumstances, etc. - Thanks!!!

Mary Favret, Mrs.

-- please select a prefix --self

The Woodlands, TX

In my opinion, I think you are overstating the problem of election fraud. Again, just because someone accuses a voter of something does not mean it occurred. We are all innocent until proven guilty.

Xochitl Martinez, MS.

Myself

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition of House Bill 6. I am very concerned how this bill could impact my elderly family members and family members with disabilities. Mail in voting had been their main voting method for years. House Bill 6 appears to put additional hurdles in the way by potentially making it more difficult to obtain a ballot application. Additionally, I'm concerned by the language in the bill which could be nuanced enough to open pathways that may potentially criminalize currently normal and effective practices. This bill, along with Senate Bill 7, have presented to be tactics to make voting ever more difficult for elderly Texans, Texans with disabilities, rural Texans, young voters, and marginalized voters. I truly hope thsy you view these bills with empathy for all Texans because all of us, no matter political affiliations, deserve access to voting. Thank you.

William Bartosh, Dr.

Self

San Angelo, TX

It is imperative that ELECTION INTEGRITY be mandated for the public to have faith in the institutions of our Texas government. Therefore, I am stating

My STRONGEST opinion that a photo ID must be presented to vote, that drive through voting NOT be allowed, No ballot harvesting, and No drop boxes.

Our Country , during this last election, has gone so far off center that our election process is in peril. Why should Citizens bother to Vote at all if they believe their vote will be changed by electronic machines or diluted by fraudulent mail in ballots. THE WORLD IS LOOKING TO THE USA FOR LEADERSHIP AND THE USA IS LOOKING FOR TEXAS TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP STAND ON THIS FOUNDATIONAL ISSUE

Davis Davis

Self/Retired

Gilchrist, TX

Good morning, I am writing you asking you for support for the following Bills.

HB 6- There is no logical reason to continue to carry the deceased among our voter roles, serves no purpose what so ever.

HB 2057- Precinct Chairs should be able to work through the election, changing the date aids us in that endeavor.

HB 2157-It is not unreasonable to ask a person what county they live in when casting a provisional ballot.

HB 2318-On a ballot with more than one political entity and with more than one proposition, it helps voters to be able to distinguish between the propositions by using a unique letter for each.

HB-2640- If a uniform date is made for elections it will make for a smoother and faster election.

HB 3285- A voter has the right to select an interpreter, but if they don't have an interpreter the election official should be able to select an interpreter so they can communicate with the voter.

It makes sense that the voter be able to have someone other than her boss, agent of her boss or labor union. The voter should be able to vote independently of employment. This protects the voter from retaliation and allows the voter freedom to vote however they choose.

The voter should be able to have assistance voting and the person assisting should be identified to protect the voter.

All of these bills are common sense bills and will help to ensure a free and fair election for all involved.

James Witcher

Self Small business owner

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose HB 6. This is some Texas size bullsh*t right here. The premise is false-voter fraud is not a problem in Texas and the intention is repugnant-making it harder for citizens to vote.

Naomi Narvaiz, SREC SD21

Republican Party of Texas

San Marcos, TX

As a legal citizen and voter; I am asking for your support of HB6. Election Integrity was selected as the most important issue for republican voters at our republican state convention. It is important to identify who is voting in our elections. Cleaning voter rolls and removing deceased individuals and individuals who have moved would assure voter integrity. Ballot harvesting should not be normal practice. Any individual who is opposed to securing our elections or election integrity does not have the best interest or outcome of our elections. Our vote is the most solemn civic duty we have and it should be case with care with the assurance that each of our votes are counting. In 2017, 1816 votes were not counted in Hays County. My husbands, my sister in laws and several of our friends votes did not count. Each of these individuals took time to go cast their vote trusting that their vote would be making a difference for their chosen candidate and it was extremely discouraging to find out that their votes were not even counted. Thank you for your time and support for HB 6.

Julie Beckman
Self; Copyeditor
AUSTIN, TX

I oppose HB 6. This bill would financially burden local governments, elevate partisan poll watcher power above election official authority, create new costs for disabled voters, and increase burdens on voters with disabilities to access assistance at the polls.

Camille Eckersley
Self
Bluff Dale, TX

It is imperative that we keep the integrity and preservation of our elections at the ballot box. I believe we need stronger criminal penalties for those who knowingly and willingly creat fraud or illegal actions. They need to be held accountable for their actions and not allowed to work in any elections in any state ever again. They're MUST be held accountable.

Joyce Stimpson
Self
Waco, TX

Do not pass this bill. There is not a suitable definition of "watcher " which appears to be intimidator in charge. The implicit and explicit authority to determine how ballots are being determined leaves too much room for conjecture. Early voting only on the election day is an oxymoron, under the discretion of the watcher? This bill is obviously designed to suppress minority voters and to legalize overseers to disrupt fair, Open, and equal voting rights.

Andrew Cobb
self
Houston, TX

I fully oppose HB 6 by Cain. It will ultimately restrict voting access and lower voter turnout. There is very little evidence of fraud and it's really this bill that is fraudulent. Please oppose this.

Betty Gerlach
Self
San Antonio, TX

The right to vote is sacred. Anything that can limit citizens that right is criminal. I'm old enough to remember the poll tax. I've seen the Voting Rights Bill enacted. Now I see a group of people who want to restrict that right. It makes me sad and mad. The more people who can vote, the more democratic our country.

LuAnne Hobbs, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

As a poll watcher in Dallas County I personally witnessed election judges allowing illegal ballots to be cast. Voters who did not surrender mail in ballots were voting regular instead of provisional ballots. I was obstructed from viewing at El Centro West whenever I mentioned a voting infraction to the judge. Also witnessed Voter allowed to vote without proper ID. We MUST protect the integrity of the ballot. Each ballot must be accounted for, shorten election cycle (polls were empty most of the time- rarely if ever a line) and Election Day must be consecutive with a few days of early voting. Thousands of votes disappeared off dallas county elections site during early voting from predominately Republican zip code. Please save Texas and our sacred process of elections!

Ryan Lugalía-Hollon, Dr

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill contains elements that are clearly intended as voter suppression. This is totally unacceptable!

John Elliott

Rerr County Republican Chairman

Hunt, TX

Re write, amend or strike page 20 from the HB 6

Julie C Wilson

self

Wichita Falls, TX

I support the HB 6 bill. My opinion is every legitimate authority admits that there was (and is always) voter fraud in elections. The key question is, "How much fraud is acceptable?" We are obviously beyond that threshold with what has occurred in the November 2020 election both nationally and for the state due to illegal votes, dead voters being counted, multiple votes occurring along with other issues revealed in the last several months. Trust in elections is vital to peace and progress in our republic. Without it, the system fails. I feel the HB 6 bill will address many of our most serious concerns about election integrity in Texas and thank you for continuing to move the bill forward so it will pass and become the law.

Carrie Schweitzer

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Committee Members,

Vote NO on HB 6. This bill limits our democratic process and put roadblocks in the voting process. Texas 2020 elections saw the largest turn-out of voters ever and with extremely few proven incidents of fraud. I see this bill as irrelevant to the vast majority of voters in our state. As a career college educator and VDR, I have helped register new voters. They welcome the clear unbiased information by trained, approved VDRs. Likewise new citizens are joyful to register to vote, some for the first time in their lives. This is not interference, but promotion of democracy and an invitation to participate.

During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, prior to November 2020, I applied for a mail-in ballot. This option kept me safe and healthy during a critical public health crisis. Likewise it helped my 98-year-old father. We must allow optional methods for voting! We cannot predict the future and what can befall us - we must secure options such as the mail-in ballot, drive-through voting, curbside voting, etc. We must let the people speak!

Vote NO on HB 6, and ensure voting access for all of us! Thank you for your service.

Carrie Schweitzer

Jane Bourne

Self, Retired

Lakeway, TX

Respectfully submit these qualifiers for consideration concerning Election Integrity: 1) Have Official Election Day, not day(s), week(s), month(s); 2) Voting by Mail Eligibility only for for Military, Infirmed and Elderly only; 3) Must present Official Voter ID; 4) Universal Signature (Matching 100% Verification); and 5) Chain of Custody protection for every ballot.

Sean Taylor

self, higher eduction

Austin, TX

As a Texan who takes the right to vote seriously, I urge you to vote against Senate Bill 7 and House Bill 6 in committee. These bills attempt to throw up even more barriers and blocks for individuals to register to vote and cast a ballot that counts. Right now our state is facing multiple crises. This raises the question: why pursue these bills when we as Texans are still suffering through the pandemic and we still need answers and accountability from the Blackouts that froze millions of us?

SB7 and HB6 will have a disproportionate impact on young people, people with disabilities, older individuals, and communities of color. We cannot and will not allow Jim Crow tactics to suppress the vote to sneak past the Capitol under the guise of security.

I urge you to vote NO on SB7 and HB6 in your committee.

Paul Velte

Self, Attorney

San Marcos, TX

Look, let's face it, laws were broken last election, with very little consequence. New laws won't really help much if people are willing to break them. While any reform is a step in the right direction, what is truly needed is a CONSEQUENCE that does not rely upon the whim of a local prosecutor, because we know a Soros DA is not going to prosecute election law violations pulled off by democrats in democrat run counties.

The only consequence that has any real teeth is one that says the final tally of a precinct or county will not be counted if and when it is proven in court that election laws were broken. That takes away the incentive to cheat, as getting caught means the effort is wasted. It is an almost impossible standard of proof to require, as many courts do, proof that the violations "changed the result." No more of that. Just prove the broke the law, and make them do it over.

Marla Lopez

Self

Houston, TX

Good morning, I've followed some of the concerns and remarks of this committee this session - and as a Voter, community organizer, and constituent of Texas, y'all's priorities are attacking our access to vote is SHAMEFUL, EMBARRASSING, and it is not going unnoticed. My family and community have been affected by the voter purge of 2019 - A DEBASED AND FAILED ATTEMPT at intimidating and criminalizing voters, NEWLY naturalized voters of color from walks of like that differ yours, a white male dominated legislative body. My community lives within your districts, we are Latinx, we are Black, we are Asian American, we are Caucasian, we are disabled, we speak many languages, we are elderly - and we were fortunate to have policies and local leaders that provided eligible voters with options and access to vote their way during a pandemic following our local and state govt guidelines.

It is outrageous that certain committee members claim there is no issues with voting because of record turnout last year. THAT RECORD TURNOUT WAS DUE TO POLICIES FROM BOTH OUR COUNTY AND OUR GOVERNOR, THE HARD WORK OF VOLUNTEERS, AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS. Texas still ranks among the lowest turnout states because of how complicated our voting system is; knowledgeable constituents have had to foot the labor to ensure folks have all the info and resources they need to vote their own way. As a voter that is ENRAGED at the voter suppression tactics being enacted by Senate Bill 7 & House Bill 6. I urge y'all to vote AGAINST these bills in committee and wherever else. We Texans are STILL in the middle of an ongoing pandemic made worse by the FAILURE of an electrical grid system that blackouts and led to death during the winter freeze; it is UNACCEPTABLE that our legislators are spending valuable time trying to curtail voting access and rights for Texans, REGARDLESS OF PARTY. I am personally still dealing with the damage of the storm, laws like these would make it more difficult for eligible voters like me to hold our electeds accountable for their failures.

These laws are rooted in Jim Crow-era legislation that make it difficult for communities of color, the elderly & the disabled to vote - communities that have been historically marginalized but are the first to experience the consequences of leadership's failure & discrimination in policy. We saw a record breaking voter turnout this past election cycle, REGARDLESS OF PARTY, during the most dangerous pandemic of our lifetime. We were able to maintain access to the ballot in a safe and fair manner for eligible voters, & we should not discourage further participation from our voters - that's what makes democracy real, fair, & representative of all people. These attempts, under the empty banner of "election integrity", are an attack on access to the ballot box. It's an attack on the MOST VULNERABLE of our Voters, REGARDLESS OF PARTY!!!! Election integrity means fair and accessible policies like those we have and can improve.

Matthew Morrison

Self - Librarian

Fort Worth, TX

This bill is against reason and God; a huckster scam perpetuated on behalf of the elites who fear what would happen if every Texan who was capable of voting actually did so, as evidenced by the record turnout in the last two elections and a severe lack of any actual voter fraud they can point to as evidence that the system is broken.

Alpa Sridharan

self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 6 because my favorite part of being an American is to have the opportunity to engage in civic life, through participating in forums like this and of course voting. My brother was able to vote with his young children in the car, my friends that work long hours were able to vote after 7 pm. It is important we continue to encourage every person to participate in civic life and offer ways for people to access it that reflect who we are and how we live now.

Maisie Barringer

Self

La Porte, TX

Please pass this bill! We MUST protect the integrity of our elections.

Kierra Jones-Jackson

Deeds Not Words at Huston-Tillotson

Austin, TX

My name is Kierra Jones-Jackson and I am the Deeds Not Words Campus Organizer for Huston-Tillotson University, Austin's oldest institution for higher learning and it's only HBCU. I, along with my fellow changemakers, have been organizing and providing civic engagement education to the East Austin region for many years.

I am submitting this testimony in opposition of HB 6. This bill is unnecessarily restrictive, unconstitutional, and is a use of explicit fear mongering to deter young people from registering to vote.

East Austin is an incredibly unique area with very specific needs. It is home to the majority of the city's black and brown citizens. Huston-Tillotson University is located in the heart of East Austin right on 7th street and Chicon. My HBCU is home to just over 1,000 students of color. The very students that this bill will be affecting.

Huston-Tillotson has an abundance of programs and organizations like Deeds, committed to increasing voter registration and civic engagement in Black and brown communities. Just this past semester at HT, Deeds teamed up with NAACP to host a community wide voter registration drive. We proudly registered more than 100 people of color at this single event. With the current health crisis and restrictions that have been placed on our everyday lives it was an event designed to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our community could still participate in the civic process.

As young activists, we recognized an issue heavily weighing on our own people and decided to create a game plan to combat this. The divine nine Greek organizations as well as NAACP have been working diligently in the community since the roots of the campus were planted. Over the years, we have hosted events like community wide march to polls, candidate panels, election education panels, GOTV community block parties, and carpool to the polls events. In the past when states like Texas have made voting harder through unnecessary restrictions instead of providing solutions that empower communities of color to vote, organizations like Deeds Not Words, Historically black greek lettered organizations, and NAACP have taken matters into their own hands to advocate for, and protect our communities. It is this same protection and advocacy that we are seeking from you, our representatives. It's shameful that instead, elected officials who want to suppress our voting power file and support anti-democratic bills that would limit our participation in our elections. What I want to know is why YOU don't want MY voice in the voting booth? Texas deserves better.

Monty Parker

self / retired

SAN MARCOS, TX

We strongly urge you to pass this bill to protect the integrity of our elections.

Karen Darby

Self

Georgetown, TX

I oppose HR 6, a bill that seeks to further disenfranchise voters by prosecuting Texans for voting mistakes and inhibiting political parties, candidates, and civic groups from sending voters key voting resources, including ballot by mail applications.

The instances of voter fraud in Texas are very few. Some cases, in fact, involve innocent mistakes that should not be punished criminally. There is nothing inherently fraudulent about voting by mail, or about the practice of allowing political parties to send out applications for mail-in ballots to eligible voters. The push to encourage more mail-in voting was prompted by very real concerns about the health and safety of voters because of the risks of being infected with the Covid-19 virus. Efforts by political parties to notify eligible voters that they have a safer option of voting by mail should be applauded, not prohibited.

HR 6 seems to be a solution in search of a problem. Legislative resources should be directed to Texas' more serious issues, such as the disastrous effect of having a government in charge that ignores scientific facts and demonizes discrete and insular minorities instead of targeting the true cause of its problems. Rather than hyperventilate about how many people vote by mail, the Legislature should seek to eradicate corrupt crony capitalism by instituting rational regulation of our public utilities and private enterprises.

Bensaber Boutaleb, Manager of Strategic Sourcing

Arlington, Tx

Arlington, TX

I am against this bill as a voter. I see no issues with fraud at all. Keep clear. This is an attempt to alienate other than GOP.

Nathan Willis

Self, student

Abilene, TX

I am wholly opposed to this blatant attempt to suppress the legal votes of Texas voters by making voting harder, more arduous, and more costly. The notion that past elections in Texas, in particular the 2020 general election, exhibited fraud is an out-and-out lie, perpetrated by partisan sore losers and by craven con-artists who hope to capitalize on the loudness of those aforementioned sore losers to selectively disenfranchise any many law-abiding Texas voters as they can, in a shallow-minded attempt cling to political office by scraping off any votes they personally don't like. Texas is not fooled by this. Election integrity in this state is sound, as the facts already reviewed from the 2020 general election scientifically — and unequivocally — demonstrate. The measures stuffed into this bill openly seek to increase the hardship of casting a vote, and it is abundantly clear from the rhetoric of this bill's proponents that their goal is NOT integrity or purity of the ballot box or anything else. Their goal is to grift the voters of Texas, and this bill is their counterfeit note. The voters of this state can see through the lies. Members of the House had best see that the voters are watching them with eyes wide open.

Wendell Willis

Wendell Willis

Abilene, TX

Another GOP attempt at voter suppression --no one is fooled!

Daniel Greer, Mr.

Direct Action Texas

Waco, TX

Testifying in support of House Bill 7, we welcomed these needed election integrity reforms following the circumvention of state law during the 2020 election.

Chairman Cain is to be commended for his amendments to the introduced version of this measure, especially removing language centralizing power with the Secretary of State to alter and administer elections.

Where the Secretary of State is granted more responsibility in election administration this session, it should be in addition to local authorities, not to their exclusion. We must ensure Texans have checks and balances in place and are afforded the most responsive government possible. This principle of access would be violated by further consolidation of responsibilities in an unelected and, in our extensive experience, an unresponsive office.

We look forward to additional bills coming before this committee and the body as a whole for consideration to address additional shortcomings in our election code.

Amorae Times

Deeds Not Words at Prairie View A&M

Austin, TX

My name is Amorae Times and I am a student at Prairie View A&M University. I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not Words and I am here in opposition to HB6, a very dangerous and restrictive anti-voter bill. Many factors go into a citizen's access to the ballot. This bill proposes to prevent local election officials from distributing vote-by-mail applications, block third party groups from distributing vote-by-mail applications, restricts vote by mail eligibility only to people who physically cannot enter a polling place, and those who qualify as eligible for vote by mail, have to provide medical documentation to officially be deemed eligible for vote by mail. These proposals alone challenge many communities in accessing the ballot. Texas has many rural areas in which it can be challenging to access polling locations without traveling far distances. This can specifically place an undue burden on low income Texans, who do not have access to transportation. Additionally, only allowing Texas who are physically unable to enter a polling location, and mandating medical documentation places an undue burden on low income Texans and Texans who simply do not have access to healthcare, as this almost completely bars them from voting. Other restrictive proposals have been made such as granting the attorney general- nearly unlimited authority to go on a witch hunt of suspected voter fraud. This gives a dangerous amount of power to the attorney general, and can impact eligible voters. Lastly, this bill puts parameters in place to strictly take away some of the autonomy local election officials currently possess such as halting local measures to facilitate votings and imposes legal criminal penalties for any mistakes made. As a student leader at Prairie View A&M University, I have become familiar with students of color who plea to have accessible polling, and representation that represents our population and interests. Students at Prairie View A&M University have been involved in multiple lawsuits regarding access to polling and voter suppression, with a notable case being Symm v. United States, 439 U.S. 1105 (1979). Most recently, my classmates, along with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund are in an ongoing lawsuit due to voter suppression in the county in which the university resides. Although myself and many other students are not participants in this lawsuit, we have experienced voter suppression first hand. Prairie View A&M is on the land of a former slave plantation. As the University has evolved over the years from a small agricultural school, to a university filled with some of Texas' brightest students, one thing has remained the same; Black peoples struggle for equality. The place in which many first generation college students are fulfilling their ancestors wildest dreams, also doubles as a reminder of the prevalence of the ongoing fight for equality. HB 6 is everything students at Prairie View have been fighting against for decades. Please Vote NO on HB6.

Beth Biesel, Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal over reach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas tax payers to vote.

Timothy Chu

Self

Houston, TX

This is not necessary. It's a waste of taxpayer dollars and disenfranchises voters. It is clearly subverting the will of the people and does nothing in the name of recognizing the shifting electorate or best representing Texas's constituents.

Scot Baker

Residential

Houston, TX

I am in full support of hardening our elections.

Carla Birk

self

Leander, TX

I am writing in support of HB 6 and all improvements to election integrity. I have worked for many years as an election judge, poll watcher, EVBB member, and central counting judge. In the November 2020 election I witnessed actions that deeply concerned me in Travis County. As a poll watcher at Central Counting I was not able to watch the transfer of the voting media. The memory sticks were carried unsecured in hallways where watchers were not allowed. The pouches were opened in a room where watchers were not allowed. We were forced to view 10-30 feet away from the counting activities in a separate room. The computer monitor was intentionally turned off so watchers were unable to see the tabulation. Memory sticks were left out on a table, and the Central Counting manager intentionally left them on the table even when I asked (through a glass window) for her to put them in the safe, and this occurred after the presiding judge left the counting station. The mail ballot bins are locked, sealed, and both judges sign a report, but the memory sticks are passed around through many hands, often outside watchers' view, and not sealed in numbered bags as is done with other equipment and ballots. I strongly support better security and handling of digital voting media and ensuring that poll watchers can perform their duties by being allowed to watch the transfers and be within 3 feet of activities to properly see, hear, and speak in real-time. I strongly support penalties for failing to follow the TEC because the county fails to follow it, but there is no recourse as the SOS will only investigate criminal matters. It is expensive for the candidate or party to have to bring a lawsuit just to get the County Clerk to follow the TEC as was done in Travis County in November. I also support the instructions to the state's attorney and courts to hear election cases in a timely manner because too often the claims are considered moot because the election is over. Ensuring that voters are not coerced is essential, as is preventing fraudulent voting, and I support increased penalties. Also, penalties for election officials are needed for those who ignore the TEC as we saw in attempts in Texas to mass mail ballots, to create drop-off ballot locations, to ignore signature requirements, and similar efforts to defy state election law in such ways that reduce the legal safeguards thereby creating lost faith in the integrity of the elections.

Julie Dillon

Self

Grapevine, TX

We have to get election integrity under control!!!voter ID and legal citizens only voting!!! Listen to the people of Texas

Terry Putnam

Texans4Truth

georgetown, TX

I support this Bill! It does need strengthening to eliminate the ability of the Secretary of State to issue waivers to any Texas election law or regulation.

Jalil Cantarero

Self

Houston, TX

The fear of losing power and influence weighs heavy on those who believe they are leaders. The House of Representatives is to

be reminded that they are not leaders. They are representatives of the people who use their voice and want to be heard. Election integrity is a worthy cause to advocate for and I appreciate the concern for ensuring the community is heard clearly without the noise of interference. One small yet important aspect to advocating for this is know where the supposed infraction is taking place. Communication has been sent and received by the highest powers of the land, and above this House, that there is no real issue with interference of ballots or fraud in the united states. The desire to impose these criminal penalties, offenses, and restrictions as a reaction to a historic turnout of voters does not go unnoticed and would seem to be influenced by personal bias, agendas, and most likely, fear. The fear of change in a state where the people have historically advocated for themselves to a point where we have separated ourselves from the country and garnered the title "LONE STAR STATE" for doing so. We are a state that embraces change and has done so for years! The restrictions put in place by this bill are reactionary to the agenda of the proposer, Cain, who has lost what it means for Texans to want their voice heard and this bill counters that in its entirety and I would like my representatives to vote against it. Do not silence us.

John Bishop
self, consultant
Houston, TX

Nothing is more important than integrity of our elections to preserve the sanctity of democracy in Texas, confidence in our state government and maintaining a cooperative, functioning and civil society in the state of Texas. Integrity of our elections is critical for all elections impacting any elected office at any level within the state of Texas and at the national level. There are many excellent provisions in HB 6 which will help protect and improve the integrity of elections held in Texas. Additional provisions which should be added to HB 6 are to * require voter ID for mail-in and absentee ballots and * all voter rolls should be routinely on an ongoing basis verified for accuracy, eligibility and review of new, particularly last minute, registrations.

Sharon Salih, Ms.
Self, retired.
Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill.

Deirdre Hoinoski
Self healthcare
Colleyville, TX

After thorough investigations and no findings of voter fraud, restrictions on voter access is suppression and unnecessary in Texas.

Laila Khalili
Avenue
Houston, TX

Voting in an election is a rite of passage for all Americans. Voting is sacred. Voting is a tool for citizens to bring a vision for their community to fruition.

This legislation does not honor voting, elections, or the people of Texas.

Our communities are diverse and have many different needs. Many of our neighbors have disabilities; their right to vote and ability to vote from their vehicle or by mail is sacred. Working class Texans, who work late nights and multiple jobs, who can't

vote during the typical daytime hours, have the right to vote, and we should be accommodating them so they can cast their ballot. Having large voting centers to support many voters at once is a beautiful way to honor the right to vote, because time is precious and no one should have to wait six hours to vote in Texas.

Texas is already one of the hardest states to vote in in the country. Legislators on both sides of the aisle should be expanding the right to vote, not restricting it.

This bill is a threat to our democracy and denies our communities the right to vote.

Vote NO on HB6.

Lisa Troutt

Self

Dallas, TX

In the House Public Comment Box, use the following for your talking points. We need 5000- 10,000 comments to be submitted. Rally the Troops! “Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

1) 100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

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4) Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal

Matthew Monagle

Self, Financial Services Marketer

Austin, TX

In October 2020, Northern Illinois University released a study that identified Texas as the most difficult state for individuals to vote ("How hard is it to vote in your state?"). In a just world, this statistic would be a source of shame for our lawmakers, one that drives immediate election reform. Instead, and despite an overwhelming wealth of evidence that voter fraud is a "myth" (Brennan Center for Justice), Texas lawmakers are focused on making it even harder for Texans to have their voices heard at the polls. Given that our lawmakers are taking our terrible voting outcomes and actively trying to make them worse, I'm left with two possible outcomes: either a group of well-educated and civic-minded individuals have succumbed to the most basic of election lies, or many members of the House have a vested interest in making it harder for Texans to vote. Neither option is particularly enticing, which is why I'm counting on the House to restore my faith in Texas elections and VOTE NO on HB 6.

Andrea Rader

Self. Retired. Vote in every election.

Arlington, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB6 and all efforts to make voting even more difficult in Texas. The "fraud" you allege you're preventing is non-existent, yet the reality of people having to go to extraordinary lengths to exercise our most fundamental right was apparent last November. Do not pass this bill.

Nathan Baldwin

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. The burdens it will create will be larger than the problems it purports to address. And who will bear those new burdens? Those who already have the most difficulties voting.

Jessica Tiedt

Self, Chief Court Administrator

Georgetown, TX

This question has been asked and answered, and this bill is a flagrant attempt to suppress the voice of Texans from all across the state. Stop adding unneeded barriers to the ballot.

Matt Glazer

Self

Austin, TX

Vote No. It is unnecessary and we need to preserve the right to vote not to make it harder for people to be able to vote. This is voter suppression. Do not suppress the vote.

Betsy Dalstra

Self - Library Clerk

Baytown, TX

I want to show my appreciation for the hard work that is being done during this legislative session. I want to encourage all members of this committee to consider the implications of any steps they take in the direction of voting legislation. This past election was one of the safest elections conducted and whether or not more time was allowed for early voting, or whether or not voting could be done curbside or drive-thru in no way affected the integrity of the election. Concentrate on issues such as widespread mail-out of absentee ballots or burdensome identification or sketchy signature procedures . I also was deeply disappointed in the move to have only one drop-off box for a county as large as Harris Co. This was definitely an impediment to voting for many people who did not have transportation or the time to travel from one end of the county to drop something off. And because of the issue with the mail, that option was not available to many people or they may have been reluctant to trust the service. Texas needs to move forward and consider all the people in its diverse population, not stay mired in the politics of who deserves to have their vote heard. As a large and powerful state that many look to as a leader, we need to remember our Republican values and not give in to the popular trope that some others are espousing. We need to lead the way into a new era of cooperation and inclusion not stay stuck in the era of fear and repression.

Leann Maxwell

self

FORT WORTH, TX

I oppose HB 6. We should be making laws that make voting easier for our most vulnerable and oppressed citizens. This bill does the opposite. Please do what is in the best interest of all Texans and oppose this voter suppression bill.

William Moore

Myself as a life-long citizen of this great state

Houston, TX

There are those who cry "voter suppression" in regard to this bill. Such is not the case; the purpose of this bill is to maintain election integrity. The bill only requires eligible voters to make plans to be in compliance. We all have to make plans to accomplish things. If I want to go to Mass on Sunday, I have to get up at a certain time, dress in the appropriate attire, gather alms for submission during the offertory, and leave the house at a certain time. If I want to fly, I have to present an ID; if I want to buy a bottle of wine to have with dinner, I have to present an ID. If the Democrats want to enshrine ballot harvesting, then the Republicans will have no choice but to out ballot harvest the Democrats. If that is the future, then we are headed to the Lance Armstrong mindset: "If everyone is going to blood dope, then I am going to blood dope better than anyone else." Elections won't be about policies but rather about securing a victory despite the policies. When that happens, then America will be like many corrupt countries where election integrity is non-existent.

Deborah Beck

self, teacher

Austin, TX

I oppose SB 7 because it makes voting harder for everyone, but especially voters who already have more difficulty getting to the polls because they are disabled and/or disadvantaged. It will make it more expensive and difficult for localities to run their elections. And, particularly after sixty-odd suits last fall failed to show any evidence of voter fraud, there is no reason that any of this is needed. This bill creates lots of serious problems with no clear statement of what actual current problem it would solve. This bill would set back voter access as much as the Jim Crow laws did decades ago, and its goals of suppressing voting by disadvantaged and especially minority voters are the same as those Jim Crow laws. Texas doesn't need Jim Crow 2.0. It needs TWO political parties who try to win votes by persuading the citizens of our state that their ideas are the best way for Texas to move forward, instead of bills like this that would substitute voter suppression for voter engagement and policy.

Melissa Marschall, Professor
Rice University
Houston, TX

As a political scientist, I have dedicated my career to studying, researching and teaching about the value of democratic processes and institutions. Free and fair elections are the hallmark of democracies and instead of creating more barriers, our elected officials should be focusing on protecting voting rights and enacting laws that help underrepresented groups and disadvantaged Americans (the disabled, the impoverished, youth, etc) exercise their fundamental right to vote. It is especially important to teach our young people the importance of participating in their democratic system. They should not think of this as a privilege, but instead, an obligation. However, for many high school and college students, getting registered to vote and getting to the polls can be difficult. They go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. They need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Studies show that when people start voting in early adulthood they become habitual voters, whereas those who do not enter adulthood with this experience do not. Our goal as elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens voting in every election. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as democracy not forward. Your constituents overwhelming do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Debra Hoch
self
Austin, TX

I think this bill is completely unnecessary. There has only been a few issues of voter fraud in our entire state. I have worked the polls at various locations over the past 4 years in Travis County and I haven't seen issues at the polls that would make this law necessary. The poll workers do their absolute best to ensure integrity of our elections. I am opposed to this bill because I believe it is trying to limit people's ability to vote and will result in voter suppression.

Patricia Garris
Self/Retired
Spring, TX

I oppose HB6 for several reasons. First, it permits poll watchers to harass voters without penalty. In 2018 I had a poll watcher yell at me and call me a "baby killer". She made an assumption about my politics based on my perceived race. If this legislation is passed, poll watchers, like her, would be allowed to continue to harass voters.

Second, the requirement to get a doctor's note to confirm a disability invades medical privacy. It is in essence a "poll tax" because there is a fee required to see a doctor and get the requested documents. This can be a financial burden on a population that is already under stress.

Third, standardizing polling policies across the state is ludicrous. For the first time, the 2020 access to voting in Harris County encouraged and supported the right to vote. Lines were short, locations were adequate and both 24-hour and curbside voting let voters decide when and where to cast their ballots. The result was voter satisfaction and participation. Harris County and Loving County have totally different needs.

Fourth, history has taught us that voter suppression is bad for business.

There is a voting problem in Texas, and it is not election security. The problem is that too few Texans vote. The solution is to

make it easier to vote, not create more voting barriers.

Carol Ortiz, Ms

Self/ retired

Montgomery, TX

I oppose HB 6. This is a very bad bill which would negatively effect all voters in Texas. We already have a sufficient system with enough safeguards in place. There is virtually NO voter fraud in TX.

Jayne Orum

self

Georgetown, TX

I am in total and firm support of HB 6. In January of this year, US Senator Mitch McConnell stated that "Every election we know features some illegality and irregularity and, of course, that is unacceptable..." Unfortunately, it seems that illegality has been acceptable. We must make it unacceptable at least here in Texas, and by doing so we will shine the light of honesty and true representative government to encourage the rest of the nation. One legal vote per one legally eligible citizen must be the goal and can be the reality. Thank you.

Ruei Tuo

Self

Katy, TX

This bill is an attack on voting rights. It is anti-democratic. Using fictitious fraud claim to clamp down on people's voice is what authoritarian countries like China, Russia, and Cuba do. If this bill is even passed put of the committee, we will no longer be the shining city on the hill and has rescinded our right to claim to be the democracy the world look up to.

Susannah Brooks

self

Austin, TX

Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy. The state should be doing everything it can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Last year's increase in voter participation shouldn't be seen as partisan—it should be seen as good for our democracy. These bills are dangerous, anti-democratic and must be blocked. Vote no on HB6! As a Texan abroad, utilizing my right to vote is one of the most important connections, beyond family, that I have to home. I want to be proud to share that I am from Texas because we protect democracy and ensure that all Texans, who are eligible to vote, can. If your politics are good and popular with the people of Texas, you shouldn't be afraid of more voters!

Don Greenwell, Mr

na

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill, for the integrity of our elections

Michelle Copeland

Truth Warriors

Dallas, TX

We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Wesley Story

Progress Texas

Austin, TX

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wesley Story and I am AGAINST House Bill 6. I am an Austin resident and I am representing myself as well as the organization I work for, Progress Texas. I am disappointed that the committee has refused to allow virtual testimony from Texans today, and I urge you to reconsider for future hearings.

House Bill 6 is a dangerous piece of anti-voting legislation that undermines the democratic process by preventing local election officials from informing Texans about all of their voting options. The bill specifically targets mail-in voting and would disproportionately impact voters with disabilities, older voters, college students and persons who are incarcerated.

The bill also ties local election officials' hands by giving partisan poll watchers special rights to intimidate voters and disrupt polling places. This is perhaps one of the most concerning pieces of the bill. We know Texas poll watchers have a notorious track record of intimidating Black voters and voters of color, and this bill would take us back to the days of Jim Crow when lawmakers allowed that type of activity to run rampant in our state.

The bill also attacks community organizers who are trying to help Texans vote by expanding the scope of conduct that would be

considered criminal and creating new legal requirements for helping voters.

To summarize, the bill creates even more obstacles for voters and election officials to navigate, and for what? Texas is already one of the hardest states in the nation to vote in. House Bill 6 promotes a dangerous anti-democracy agenda and that's why I am urging you to oppose it, along with nearly 3,000 other Texans who have signed my organization's petition against the slew of voter suppression legislation filed this session.

Darlene Aksoy

self; retired teacher

Coppell, TX

The proposed legislation of HB6 represents an attempt at voter suppression, not voter integrity or 'purity of the ballot box'. There is no evidence of voter fraud in Texas to support this proposed legislation. A proposed penalty and the creation of criminal offense is especially egregious, particularly when it can be arbitrarily applied over the slightest unimportant detail such as a person's middle initial being omitted, or a street name including the word "plaza" instead of "court". Unintentional discrepancies can be easily and quickly corrected without the threat of criminal penalties. The threat of criminal penalties discourages volunteers from working at polling places, and can thereby create a significant downturn in the number of polling locations due to a lack of volunteers to man them, thereby further suppressing the vote, which is the actual and clear intent of such a legislative clause. Such tactics represent voter intimidation, not integrity or purity. Furthermore, poll watchers do not need to have full unrestricted reign over a polling location. This can easily allow intrusion into the privacy of a person's vote. The prospect of a poll watcher standing over one's shoulder making a cell phone video while one votes is a monstrous offense to the privacy and the legitimacy of the voting process, and is again yet another attempt at voter intimidation. Poll watchers are able to perform their duties without such wild latitude. To give poll watchers a position of power over voters at the polling station is ripe for massive abuse and voter intimidation. The right to vote is foundational to our democracy. It should not be restricted by arbitrary means such as those in this proposed legislation. Any restriction on the right to vote is an insult and an affront to our democracy and must not be allowed. The proposed legislation is unnecessary, it is unsupported by foundational fact, it proposes voter restriction and intimidation, it does not in any way relate to election integrity, it does not preserve the so-called 'purity of the ballot box', and it must be defeated.

Sally Stricklett

Tax payer

Cypress, TX

Look at the person next to you. How many years have you done nothing to clean the voter rolls and purge? How many years have you parleyed your positions to increase personal growth, while looking the other way at fraud? Its time to do the hard work. Secure our vote.

Debra Dennis, Sister

Self

Austin, TX

Fraud, other than the Republican party's suppression efforts, is not a problem in Texas. The extremely low number of discovered fraud cases in the last election prove this is nothing more than an effort to codify voter intimidation. We need to expand voter access not limit it. Every citizen should be able to easily register and vote. Anything less is undemocratic and all voters will reject those who chose to reject/repress voting access.

Patrick Hernandez-Cigarruista, SSG (Ret)

Self/Registered Representative

El Paso, TX

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your public service and the sacrifice you make spending time away from family to represent the good people of Texas.

As a U.S. Army Veteran I spent many months and sometimes over year at a time away from my family and my home, Texas.

I am sure that each one of you, having taken an oath to support and defend the constitution of the State of Texas would agree that each singular vote cast by a Texan who is also a U.S. Citizen is worth something special.

It's worth defending up to and even with our very own lives. Many men and women have served under the privilege and burden of committing their very existence in defense of the liberties defined in the Texas and U.S. Constitutions.

I would hope, that you sitting peacefully in your home or your congressional chamber, under the safety of the banner of the U.S.A and Texas flags would honor your sacred oath and the honorable commitment and sacrifice of service members who swore their oaths with the promise that our Republic would be respected and protected by elected civilians.

I know you all will come through and be the heroes who will honor all Texans and encourage in person voting, Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications, Ban ballot harvesting, Increase poll watcher access (improved transparency).

May God Bless all of you, we're praying for you.

Respectfully,

Patrick Hernandez-Cigarruista, SSG (Ret)

Megan Meisenbach Meisenbach

self

Austin, TX

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members,

I ask you to vote "No" on HB 6. This proposed law will impede fair elections. It will try to legislate the Constitution of the United States .HB 6 places an undue burden on election volunteer workers and staff by increasing criminal penalties.

Thjank you for your service.

Claudia Yoli Ferla, Co-Executive Director

Deeds Not Words

Austin, TX

Good Morning House Members of the Elections Committee,

My name is Claudia Yoli Ferla, Co-Executive Director at Deeds Not Words, an organization that galvanizes the power of young women through organizing, policy-making, art, and voting. I am writing to you in opposition to HB 6.

Shifting the balance of power in Texas and in our country– from who speaks up, to who votes and governs– begins with us. Millennials and Gen Zers, who in Texas comprise the largest and most diverse piece of the electorate, shattered turnout records in the most recent presidential election.

The unapologetic numbers show young people are fed-up and desire policy solutions. Especially in Texas, at such a critical moment in the climate crisis when freezing neighborhoods are left below the bottom line of an energy company, when minors and those seeking refuge are apprehended by border patrol, when Black and brown bodies protest in our streets with targets on their backs, and when thousands have died from COVID-19 leaving blood in the hands of our elected leaders who have made irresponsible decisions going against medical recommendations. If voter trends and our collective values are changing, then why are Texas youth not seeing the same shifts in our elected leadership?

We have historically and continue to be disenfranchised by our very own democracy. From eliminating polling sites on college campuses, to making the voting process easier for gun owners, young Texans deserve better than the example being set by those who claim to represent us.

Right now, the threat of the most restrictive voting rights legislation filed in the country sits in the prematurely unmasked halls of our Texas Capitol. From limiting the much needed work of volunteer deputy registrars and unnecessarily giving the Secretary of State greater authority over our local elections, to making voting by mail harder and voter purging easier, it couldn't be more clear that the number one priority in their anti-democratic playbook is to suppress our power.

Through this bill, Texas is doing everything it can to keep young voices far away from the poll. On top of that, we continue to see representatives cherry picking partisan voters and gerrymandering our electoral districts without our consent. Despite these anti-democracy, anti-voter tactics, we know it's us who have the power to shape our government, not the other way around.

We deserve elected leaders who will expand our democracy and make it easier for everyday people to participate in our elections, not the other way around.

We are the largest and most diverse electorate, and we will continue to own our collective power by organizing our communities, demanding systematic change, voting in even higher record numbers, and holding anti-voter representatives accountable.

Kurt Hyde

Myself, concerned Texas citizen

Corinth, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Darryl Swann

self

KYLE, TX

I need to be able to trust that my votes actually counts. Please do whatever it takes to insure that's the case. This bill is a good start.

Barbara Harless

self

Murphy, TX

As an election judge since the 1990s and a poll watcher at Central Count since 2016, I am opposed to HB6 as initially filed.

I must request that HB6 be amended in Sec. 276.018. (UNLAWFUL ALTERING OF ELECTION PROCEDURES) and NOT allow the Secretary of State or other public official to waive Election Code. The Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 28 clearly states that only the Texas Legislature can suspend laws - not other public officials.

In my county, Collin, I have observed all elections since Nov 2019 to be in violation of Texas Election Code 52.062 (consecutive numbering of ballots) and also Texas Election Code 62.009 (disarranging a supply of the ballots face down on a table so that they are in random numerical order for the voter to select, preventing an election officer or other person from ascertaining the number of a ballot selected by a voter, a.k.a. casting a secret ballot). Collin is able to comply with Election Code, but has unfairly taken advantage of me the voter and used the SoS waivers to shirk the Code and the laws the legislature is constitutionally charged with creating.

These 2 violations of Election Code are being executed due to the Secretary of State issuing a waiver to these statutes. Our Election statutes are scrutinized heavily in House & Senate Committees and then again on the floor of each chamber. The SoS is not elected and should not be making law.

Otherwise, there are many elements in HB 6 that I find to be great steps toward ensuring accurate and transparent voting and vote counting in future Texas elections, for EVERY qualified voter.

Monica Carson

self

Bastrop, TX

There's needs to be election integrity when it comes to voting and my vote should not be allowed to be stolen anymore!

Tavia Hunt

Self. Sports Consultant.

Dallas, TX

I served as early voting poll watcher. What I witnessed was wrong. I recorded and submitted the details, but nothing was done. We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Sincerely, Tavia Hunt

Tim Andrew Church

Self, vdr, election judge, customer service rep

Austin, TX

Stop making it harder for people to vote! This disproportionately affects communities color. There is no widespread fraud happening - it's a scare tactic to suppress the vote.

We should make it easier for people to vote, not harder!

Kathy Braatz

self, Quality Engineer

Colleyville, TX

After Texans came out to vote in record numbers in 2020, Republicans are trying to put an end to every way our election officials made voting slightly more convenient for us -- from reducing early voting hours to making it harder to vote by mail. HB 6 is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates, and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications.

We should be making it easier for Texans to vote, not harder. This bill is voter suppression and should not be advanced.

Lisa Martinez

Self/ Attorney

San Antonio, TX

I am against HB 6. This proposed bill is a complex bill that not only affects The Texas Election Code but also the Government Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. To pass such a broad and expansive bill for the purpose of preventing the now debunked myth of voter fraud, would be reckless. I, like most Citizens, do not want voter fraud. However, this bill does not accomplish the goal in making our voting system more secure. It is widely known that voter fraud was not a problem in the 2020 election. In fact, people who publicly claimed that voter fraud was an issue are now facing legal problems because of that. Therefore, what is the rush in passing this bill that would limit the ability of election workers to protect voters against harassment by watchers? This bill would negatively affect all voters, regardless of party. It also continues the history of disenfranchising communities of color and the disabled. This bill may seek to make our voting system more secure, but in reality it's an alarmist bill and its intended scope will continue to harm voters while increasing the burden on election workers and our justice system.

RobertHB Buchanan

Galveston County Tea Party

La Marque, TX

Election integrity is the most critical item on the Texas political agenda. Unless that is secured the rest is lost.

FOR Bills:

HB 6

HB 2057

HB 2157

HB 2318

HB 328

Against HB 2640

Robert Buchanan

Mary Alice Williams, Ms.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

There is always a reason to strive to increase voter access, as our democracy is based on participation. Creating obstacles to mail in voting is anti-democratic and serves only those who want to limit voters to those who are physically able to go to a polling place. Please do not limit days of voting or balloting by mail. Everyone deserves to be heard.

LaDonna Massad

Self

Austin, TX

Voting should be made easier, not more difficult. Texans want voting to be safe, easy and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted changes to our elections.

Stacy Maag

Self

Katy, TX

To whom it may concern:

In order for a free and fair, representative body for Texans, all eligible citizens should not be denied the right to vote. Making the process more difficult, excluding certain populations, adding barriers to the process is the exact opposite of what this country stands for. As if the gerrymandered districts wasn't bad enough, adding additional barriers that hinder citizens from electing the candidates of their choice is not only devious, it's downright wrong. Why are we spending valuable time and taxpayer money to find a solution to a problem that doesn't exist? This bill should die in committee and not be brought to the house for a vote. Do better! You're representing the entire state of Texas, not just the few who voted for you in your gerrymandered district!

Mikki Hebl

self

Houston, TX

I am a research professor who studies disparities. Voter suppression is responsible for many of them. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to enhance disparities in our society rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards not forward. Your constituents overwhelming do not support this bill. AVote NO for HB 6.

Kelly Elliott, Dr.

self, professor

Abilene, TX

I am not remotely fooled by this blatant, criminal attempt to make it more difficult for Texans to vote. This bill has nothing to do with the preservation of our democracy and everything to do with suppressing non-Republican votes. People who support this bill are not public servants; they serve themselves. Texans are watching, and Texans will vote out those who show their true colors by supporting this bill.

Amy Case

Self - Homemaker

Cedar Park, TX

I strongly urge you to pass HB6 to increase Election Integrity in Texas!

Jan Mikol

Self Retired

Dallas, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal over reach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas tax payers to vote.

Charles Cox

Charles G Cox, MD

LAGO VISTA, TX

After seeing the results of a fraudulent national election it is critical that we strengthen election integrity laws in Texas. I have read Rep. Cain's HB 6 and am fully supportive of its content. I expect that you will bring HB 6 up for a vote and pass it out of committee. You all need to do something to preserve the Texas democracy. Do it.

Otutochukwu Okpechi

Self

Katy, TX

I'm against HB 6 as HB 6 imposes undue burden on the electorate regardless of party affiliation.

Instead of placing undue burdens on the electorate, the state legislators and the executive branch should embrace the advancements that worked during this past election cycle and improve upon them. Ours should be a society that seeks to ensure limited burden on the electorate.

Celestine Pearson

Self

Colleyville, TX

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against SB 7 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. SB 7 and HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers. Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Thank you,

Celestine Pearson

Michael Sweeney

Central Texas Tea Party

Georgetown, TX

I support HB-6 and ask that you commit to pass it

Claudia Kling

self--retired educator

Buda, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.?? Voting is a right. We need to make it easier for all voices to be heard. I am against any measure that would suppress the right for all voices to be heard.

Jean Andrus

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Voting is a right given to eligible citizens, and the continual eroding of those voting rights is frightening. I urge legislators to think of the future of our democracy and not the power of their party when voting on Elections HB 6. Cross party lines to vote for the future of our country.

Evan McClanahan

Self

Houston, TX

Please pass this important reform!

Carolyn Daly
Self; Civic Duty Rice
Houston, TX

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and increased voter turnout - as we saw in November 2020 - should be a sign of a stronger democracy. Expanded voter turnout does not benefit only one party and we should all work to promote it. HB 6 does just the opposite. It expands what qualifies as the criminal offense of election fraud and increasing penalties for all forms of the offense, increases the risk of prosecution for assisting mail voters, prohibits public officials from ordering a change to election standard, practice, or procedure mandate like the COVID-19 safety precautions taken by Texas election officials in 2020, and it criminalizes election officials and third-party groups for distributing vote-by-mail applications. Each of these actions makes voting more difficult. All Texans' voices deserve to be heard - please vote against this bill so you do your part to ensure all of your constituents can be heard.

Jennifer Batson
self
Belton, TX

I oppose HB 6. This bill makes it harder for citizens to participate in a government that is supposed to represent them. I am a cancer patient in my 50s. Many people, like me, have medical diagnoses, or are caretakers, or have jobs, that make it difficult or expensive to cast ballots in person, especially as the wait time is indeterminate. They may not come to physical harm personally, as the letter from the physician would need to indicate, but it makes the cost unfairly extreme for certain segments of society. In addition, individuals who make mistakes without the intent to break the law should not face criminal charges. This is already a confusing system and honest mistakes will happen. I see voting as my civic duty but almost did not vote. I was concerned that I did not qualify for mail-in voting, but that my post-chemo blood counts put me at risk as well as my medication causing fatigue. I am all for fair, fraud-free elections. This goal can be achieved by setting up voting hours or methods, such as drive-through voting, that make voting simple, easy, and fraud-free. Making voting harder does not reduce fraud but does increase voter anxiety and distrust in government. Please support democracy by opposing this bill. Thank you.

Caroline Masiello, professor
self, teacher
Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 6 because as someone who has made their career teaching young adults, it is abundantly obvious that for many high school and college students, the normal life circumstances of this demographic mean that getting registered and getting to the polls can be difficult. They go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. They need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Studies show that when people start voting in early adulthood they become habitual voters, whereas those who do not enter adulthood with this experience do not. Our goal as elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens voting in every election. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as democracy not forward. Your constituents overwhelming do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Judith Kinser

self - retired

Fort Worth, TX

HB6 has many bad proposals that will unnecessarily reduce access and ability for citizens to cast their vote. It should absolutely not be illegal to send mail-in ballot applications. It does not make sense to standardize election policies across the state regardless of population and other circumstances. Each county does not need the same number of voting machines, for example. This would be a waste of resources in some places and a lack of resources in others. I have voted in almost every election throughout my life, and feel that we can and should make it easier for people to vote without creating mass fraud.

Sherry Workman

Thankful Hubbard Chapter, NSDAR

Spicewood, TX

Please Rectify and Remove Waiver Provisions from HB 6. We do not want to give a Public Official the right to waive or suspend laws. The Texas Government Code Chapter 2001 clearly states advanced public notice and public comment are required to adopt or change rules.

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

Nicole Hill

Self

Austin, TX

As a Texas resident, I am rather dumbstruck that a state that has already made it incredibly difficult to exercise our right to vote is intent on further infringing that right. HB 6, along with SB 7, are anti-democratic and anti-voter bills that do nothing to protect voting rights. Instead, they make voting a sort of quest that only those deemed "fit" are able to finish. If this pandemic has shown us anything, it is that we can make casting a ballot simpler and more convenient, without sacrificing the "integrity of our elections." Our goal should be to increase turnout and encourage all eligible Texans to vote. Drive-through and outdoor polling locations made voting safer in this pandemic and can and should be in the toolbox of elections officials going forward. Furthermore, it is distressing to think we would consider codifying ageism and ableism by adding accessibility barriers to the polls for voters with disabilities and discouraging volunteers from driving voters — especially older Texan voters — to polling places. The civic duty of voting requires that we demonstrate a commitment to the civic good, and that includes watching out for vulnerable populations in our communities. HB 6 should be left to wither on the vine, just as it would have the voting rights of many Texans do.

Robbie McDaniel

Grassroots Gold, Self

Lubbock, TX

I'm testifying FOR HB 6

I want to thank Chairman Cain for bringing this legislation forward, and to the committee for providing this forum for public debate and discussion.

Election integrity is absolutely essential in Texas and the USA to maintain any sense of credibility and accuracy in voting. The election in November of 2020 was a debacle of monumental proportion! The results were unreliable as to the integrity of verified, registered U.S. voters. To this day, the results continue to be contested and questioned.

This MUST be fixed. If we cannot count on the integrity of our elections, what is the point of conducting elections? If deceased persons and non-US citizens are included in voting tallies, where is the integrity and value of our election system? Many U.S. politicians have gone completely rogue in their actions, ideals, and mandates. Most U.S. politicians have forgotten that they work for WE, THE PEOPLE.

Texas MUST lead on this issue, and HB 6 is a good beginning. Please vote in support of HB 6.

Thank you,

Robbie McDaniel
Lubbock, TX.

Colleen Vera
Self - Retired Teacher
Houston, TX

My name is Colleen Vera.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 6, especially in support of the Texas Attorney General having the authority to investigate and prosecute voter fraud cases.

I used the Texas Public Information Act to collect election documents to investigate mailed balloting in Harris County after a video was posted online which appeared to be a ballot harvester working in my county.
I compiled my research online at:

<http://www.texastrashtalk.com/2020/04/vote-harvesting-in-harris-county-beyond.html>

In summary, I found that numerous applications for ballot by mail were submitted in the exact same handwriting – but the section on the application for a voter assistant had not been filled out.

Very concerning was the fact that two of the first three persons who picked up multiple (50 or more) applications for ballot by mail from the County Clerk were persons who had been previously convicted of forgery.
Even more concerning was the finding that these convicted forgers had been paid by both political campaigns and a PAC supporting candidates on the ballot for various positions from US Congress down to County School Trustee.

Included on the list were candidates for District Attorney and various District Judges.

In this case, it would not be appropriate to ask our County District Attorney to investigate my findings or for the case to be heard by a local District Judge, so I filed a complaint with the SOS and asked that my case be investigated by the AG.

I believe the AG needs the authority to investigate and prosecute voter fraud because often times the local officials are too close to the case and may actually be involved in the fraud.

Colleen Vera
18130 Cadbury Dr
Houston, TX 77084
colleen@TexasTrashTalk.com
281-948-4521

Candy Castle

self

Montgomery, TX

This is a good start, but the Bill can further be improve by adding the following:

---Required voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

---Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Thank you for fighting for the representation of the American people, which was taken away at the last election.

Scott Janes

self

Temple, TX

PLEASE work harder on election integrity in the State of Texas!! We've all seen the bad things that can happen...

Jennifer Woolsey

Self

Arlington, TX

Please defend the integrity of our elections. We must know who is placing the vote and that they are who they say they are by verifying people's identity and punishing those who circumvent our election laws.

Deana Johnston, Digital Media Specialist

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with "business as usual" state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training, and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers, or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents, and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators, and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware, and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers, and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

1. 100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

2. Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

3. Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or

unregistered voters.

4. Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest, or expulsion for any non-resident, including any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal overreach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas taxpayers to vote.

Mariah Contreras

Self

San Antonio, TX

Representative Cain, voting should be one of the happiest and easiest thing a person can do. By putting forth a bill that encourages voter intimidation and relies on the prejudices of poll watchers turns voting into a scary experience.

Carolyn Walker

Grassroots

Flint, TX

I support this bill.

Please protect the vote! Protect election integrity!

Adrienne Simoes Correa, Dr.

self, Assistant Professor of BioSciences

Houston, TX

As a university professor, I am opposed to HB 6 because free and fair elections are the hallmark of democracies and instead of creating more barriers, our elected officials should be focusing on protecting voting rights and enacting laws that help underrepresented groups and disadvantaged Americans (the disabled, the impoverished, youth, etc) exercise their fundamental right to vote. It is especially important to teach our young people the importance of participating in their democratic system. They should not think of this as a privilege, but instead, an obligation. However, for many high school and college students, getting registered to vote and getting to the polls can be difficult. They go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. They need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Studies show that when people start voting in early adulthood they become habitual voters, whereas those who do not enter adulthood with voting experience do not become habitual voters. Our goal as elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens to vote in every election. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as a democracy, not forward. Your constituents overwhelmingly do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Donna Gideon

self, retired

Galveston, TX

Please pass HB 6.

Now more than ever, this bill will facilitate integrity of our voting systems, thus enabling citizens to feel secure that their votes count.

Brenda Waters

Self

College Station, TX

Please do not pass this Bil. Voters should not be prevented from exercising their right to vote. You will be held accountable at the polls if you support this Bill. We will vote no matter what. Thank you.

Jonathan Steinberg

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and any other measures that make it harder to vote. You need to make it easier to vote, not harder. Voting is foundational and needs to be made easy.

Shayna Schlosberg

The Catastrophic Theatre

Bellaire, TX

I'm writing to express my vehement opposition to HB 6 which egregiously suppresses the right to vote in Texas and intimidates election workers. I worked as a deputy judge during the 2020 general election and I saw firsthand how many barriers already exist to voting. These include the need to have already been registered by the deadline, which was a full three weeks before election day, and discriminatory laws limiting those with felonies from voting. I saw many people who had to be turned away because of these restrictions, which was truly heartbreaking. Introducing even more hurdles to voting is a threat to our already delicate democracy. Furthermore, several studies have been conducted to measure the threat of voter fraud, and they all have concluded that occurrences of voter fraud are extremely rare. Finally, I saw firsthand how much paperwork must be managed by poll workers, many of whom are members of their community who are doing this out of the goodness of their hearts and not for a paycheck. Further complicating their responsibilities will deter average americans from participating in civil service. Fewer poll workers means less capacity to ensure fair and safe elections. This bill cannot pass.

Janet Braam

self

Houston, TX

Please vote NO for HB6.

Free and fair elections are the hallmark of democracies and instead of creating more barriers, our elected officials should be focusing on protecting voting rights and enacting laws that help underrepresented groups and disadvantaged Americans (the disabled, the impoverished, youth, etc) exercise their fundamental right to vote. It is especially important to teach our young people the importance of participating in their democratic system. They should not think of this as a privilege, but instead, an obligation. However, for many high school and college students, getting registered to vote and getting to the polls can be difficult. They go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. They need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Studies show that when people start voting in early adulthood they become habitual voters, whereas those who do not enter adulthood with this experience do not. The goal of elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens voting in every election. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as democracy not forward. Your constituents overwhelming do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Randi Martin, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to advocate that you vote NO on HB 6. Free and fair elections are the hallmark of democracies and instead of creating more barriers, our elected officials should be focusing on protecting voting rights and enacting laws that help underrepresented groups and disadvantaged Americans (the disabled, the impoverished, youth, etc) exercise their fundamental right to vote. I am a Professor at Rice University and am attuned to the needs of students in exercising their right to vote. It is especially important to teach our young people the importance of participating in their democratic system. They should not think of this as a privilege, but instead, an obligation. However, for many high school and college students, getting registered to vote and getting to the polls can be difficult. They go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. They need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Studies show that when people start voting in early adulthood they become habitual voters, whereas those who do not enter adulthood with this experience do not. Our goal as elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens voting in every election. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you to vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the mythical problem of election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as democracy not forward. Your constituents overwhelming do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Vivien Gant

Self

Porter, TX

I agree

Nedra Bray

self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. EVERY citizen over the age of 18 should be able to easily vote. It should not be restricted to those that certain people deem worthy of the right to vote. There is no documented wide spread fraud. The uncertainty that certain people say they feel has been unjustifiably generated by people who falsely spread allegations of widespread vote fraud. There was no widespread voter fraud. This bill will only make it more difficult for all people to exercise their RIGHT TO VOTE. Quit trying to take away the vote that so many non-white, non-male citizens have fought so hard to get.

Katrina Evenhouse

self - Galveston County Precinct Chair #280

DICKINSON, TX

I support HB 6 because fraud is occurring, disenfranchises legal voters, and we need this bill to pass. Also dead voters need to be removed from the rolls. We need stronger laws to prevent the theft of our elections. I want my vote to count and protected. We need voter ID to stand.

michael wallis

self

richardson, TX

Texans must be able to rely on the integrity of the voting system. It is essential to the PEACEFUL means of transferring power. These steps are a good first start to eliminating some of the known fraud in our system.

Linda Holland

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Please vote No on HB6 because of waivers. Article 1, Section 28 of the Texas Constitutions states that ONLY The Texas State Legislature can suspend laws. NO public official can waive laws.

Mary Ann Cody

Self Retired

Waco, TX

Please, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, move this bill through committee. I am increasingly concerned about the state of affairs in our country and election integrity is a priority. One by one our constitutional rights are being infringed! I will be watching what happens in this committee for my vote in upcoming elections!

Autumn Brown

Self / Cert Sub Teacher

Friendswood, TX

I support this bill.

Fraud – a) fraud is occurring

a social worker in the Mexia State Supported Living Center (SSLC), submitted

voter registration applications for 67 residents without their signature or effective consent Nov. 2020

b) disenfranchises legal voters

c) following and enforcing law is foundation of our society

Dead Voters

Should be removed from the rolls.

Poll Watchers should be allowed to view the process.

Transparency of our elections proves there is nothing to hide.

There should be no payment for handling votes. Paying for delivering votes incentives corruption.

A person should only vote in one state on the same day. It is dishonest to vote twice. SECTION 5.02. Section 64.012(a), Election Code

Each individual should register themselves to vote and request to be registered. Allowing massive mail outs of unrequested registrations to be sent out allows for stealing of registrations. If a person does not even know a registration is being sent, they won't be aware if it is stolen.

Punishments need to be set so people do not ignore the laws.

If they cheat and there are no consequences, the cheating continues. Honesty in our elections is important and should be protected.

If someone is assisting a voter, they should be willing to identify themselves.

The voter should be protected by individuals that would exploit their need for help. Anonymity encourages abuse of the voter.

Paying someone to mail a ballot is paying for a vote. No one should profit from voting.

Election judges should follow the law and be held accountable if they put false information on the affidavit required for provisional voting. Bill SECTION 5.01 Elec Code. Sec. 63.0111

Vote harvesting and paying for collecting votes should be illegal. Voting should not be a money making opportunity.

There needs to be a special legal process to stop illegal practices that impact elections. The provision to expedite election challenges protect the integrity of the election because if the illegal acts can't be stopped legal voting is not protected.

Ashley Ruhl

self

Cedar Park, TX

I am against HB6, it makes it harder for citizens to vote, driven by fear of non existent "fake" voters.

Kara Chasteen

self

Bertram, TX

The Honorable Members of the House Elections Committee:

I strongly support the passage of House Bill 6 out of your committee to the floor of the Texas House. Election integrity is the most important issue before you this session. Party does not matter. This issue is vital to the survival of our election process and to the survival of our Constitutional Republic.

Thank you for your time.

Kara S. Chasteen

Melynda Nuss

self; attorney

Austin, TX

I've served as an Election Judge and a member of the mail-in ballot board. It's difficult to see how expanded voting hours, curbside voting, or the number of voting machines at a given location could contribute to voter fraud. If someone can vote fraudulently at 8pm they can vote equally fraudulently at 3pm. Voting machines are equally hackable whether there's one at a given location or 200. And it's hard to see how voting fraudulently would be easier at the curb, with an election worker watching,

than it would be in the regular voting booth. This bill is simply nonsense, designed to create longer voting lines and more frustration. If you want to combat voter fraud, you should be looking at cybersecurity, not these ridiculous changes.

Jennie Gilchrist

Park Cities Republican Women

DALLAS, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal over reach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas tax payers to vote.

Sharon Peltzman, Mrs

Myself

Austin, TX

I urge all members to vote NO on SB 6 (and any other measures) that restrict voting in Texas. To cast a vote in an election is a citizen’s most important duty and to impede that right of citizenship is wrong. Please vote to represent all Texans and say NO to SB 6.

Jennifer Walker

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Stop trying to pass voter suppression laws. It's a waste of time and taxpayer money. The state should never be defending senseless legislation. Use your time wisely and winterize the power supply.

Waleed Dortch, Mr

Voter

Houston, TX

This bill is crap! Nothing good in this bill represents voters. Inform me who this bill is helping. HB 6 by Cain

Clear

Relating to election integrity and preservation of the purity of the ballot box through the prevention of fraud in the conduct of an election; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.

Bullshit HB 6 by Cain

Clear

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Shannon Pulley, Ms.

Self, Juvenile Supervision Officer

Fort Hood, TX

I understand there is a need to prevent fraud and keep the integrity of the election; however, all this bill is really doing is racially discriminating against the African American community as well as environmentally discriminating against the povertized

neighborhoods. Removing or "suppressing" the vote of those in these demographics is inhumane and unconstitutional. It appears as if this bill will only apply to those who are not able to defend themselves. Increasing criminal penalties and criminal offenses in the neighborhoods that are not as developed and as "nice" as others where there are already issues? To imply that the people in these demographics are an issue in preventing who YOU want to be in office? To imply that these demographics are not worthy and of value to have a voice and say in their political leadership is social injustice in the worst way. We should be progressing not regressing and it is very embarrassing that one could be so bold to even consider this to be justified. Do not pass the bill. Everyone in all areas should be able to vote and have a say so. Why should that right be stolen? It is very possible to protect the integrity of election without violating ones rights.

Miguel Alvarez

self - filmmaker

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it is a shameless attempt to make voting in Texas harder, especially for communities of color and young voters. Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy. The state should be doing everything it can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Last year's increase in voter participation shouldn't be seen as partisan—it should be seen as good for our democracy.

gayla amerman

self

Dallas, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

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100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

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We DEMAND that federal over reach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas tax payers to vote.

Daniel Harrison

self

Hutto, TX

I am a Texas voter and I oppose this bill, which would make it harder for Texans to vote. Texas is already one of the least accessible to voting in the country. This bill would punish voters with criminal penalties for mistakes and would encourage counties to purge voter rolls more frequently, thereby adversely affecting many low income and minority voters. This bill is a return to the days of the Jim Crow laws and should not be passed.

Ronnye W Cowell Cowell

Retired

HOUSTON, TX

My name is Ronnye Cowell and I live in congressional district 133, I am asking you to vote yes for the following Senate Bills that have been created to secure the integrity of our elections here in the state of Texas. HB6, HB2057, HB2318, HB3285. I am asking for you to vote against HB 2640.

HB 6 Election Integrity Protection Act of 2021 All parts of this bill are relevant to preserve the integrity of voting and elections in the state of Texas. This bill will help prevent fraud, remove dead voters from rolls, allow transparency by allowing poll watchers to view the process. Paying for delivering votes gives and incentive for corruption and paying someone to mail a ballot is paying for a vote. No one should profit from voting. Punishments need to be set so people do not ignore the laws. If they cheat and there are no consequences, the cheating continues. Honesty in our elections is important and should be protected and this should apply to Election judges, as well! I would also ask that you add the following items to this wonderful bill:

- Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Thank you for your time!

Resa Clarke

Self

Houston, TX

Please fight for our elections! I know you're up against a huge wall but in Harris County, where we live, it's a mess and the control that our county commissioners have had has made it difficult to have election integrity here. There's now no oversight in our precincts as there once was. It's a mess and as long as it's handled on a local level, we will never be able to turn Harris County back to red; thus, goes Texas. Let us know what we can do!

Bill Biesel

American Liberty Forum

Dallas, TX

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Kay Garcia
Self, Accountant
Colleyville, TX

As a lifelong Texan I am horrified by and opposed to this bill. HB6 will disenfranchise millions of Texans and their constitutional right to vote. This bill does not promote election integrity or prevent fraud and instead imposed barriers to vote reminiscent of Jim Crow voter suppression legislation. There is no evidence of wide spread or impactful voter fraud in Texas. I wholeheartedly oppose this bill and urge our representatives to vote against it.

Christopher Hatfield
Self. Construction Administrator.
Dallas, TX, TX

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the integrity of our elections! This is a commendable start and can further be improved upon by:
Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots, and
Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations.
Thank you!

Noel McRoberts

self

Dallas, TX

It would be easier to conclude that the motives of the bill's sponsors were righteous if there were any evidence at all that instances of voter fraud were statistically significant. Time and again advocates of voter suppression fail to provide proof that there are problematic levels of fraud to justify their purported solutions. On the other hand, there are clearly problematic levels of enthusiasm for basic democrat principles, genuine integrity and fundamental fairness exhibited by the advocates of these draconian measures. As a native third generation Texan over the age of 65, I find the efforts of the sponsors and their kindred spirits across the country to ensure that voting is more rather than less difficult shameful and abhorrent.

Darren Nevares

Self

San Marcos, TX

This is voter suppression and the a tactic of running away scared when the more people that can legally vote becomes too much for the Republicans to handle. The bill is completely against creating a better democracy for all Texans.

Caroline Limaye, CPA

Myself

Austin, TX

Texas does not need this Bill. It is blatant voter suppression.

NELDA HARRIS

self, attorney

Fort Worth, TX

HB6

I've served as a presiding judge or clerk in most elections since 2008. This bill would make that work much more difficult. Being an election worker is already a hard job as is, working non-stop from dawn to dusk to ensure our elections run smoothly. Criminalizing human errors and minor mistakes will have a chilling effect on those of us who have been election workers for years and discourage new people from stepping up to serve.

This bill makes it impossible for us to remove a problematic poll watcher, even if they're interfering with our work, intimidating voters or improperly electioneering.

SB7

I've served as a presiding judge or clerk in most elections since 2008. This bill would make that work much more difficult. SB 7 would require election judges to accept a disruptive poll watcher who may have been removed the previous day. This could make it more difficult for election workers to focus on processing voters and allow an overzealous poll watcher to stay on-site. In combination with HB 6, this would make it difficult to ensure problematic poll watchers are not able to intimidate voters or otherwise cause problems at a polling place.

SB 7 has a provision that would criminalize any action that may obstruct the view of or distance a poll watcher - even in small or busy polling places. An election judge may be faced with a Class A misdemeanor just for trying to keep their polling place

running efficiently.

Ebony Starke

Self

Round Rock, TX

I believe this bill is a result of the former president losing and republicans losing their senate seats. This attempt at ensuring “voting integrity” is “voter suppression” of the minority vote. There were only issues with “voting integrity” in minority cities and counties. This bill does not make any sense given there have been any voter fraud issues in years. It’s only when a republicans lose. It is a though republicans think that it is impossible for them to lose unless there is something wrong with the voting system. This is “white privilege” and ignorance at the highest level. To believe that there must be something wrong with the voting system is outrageous. Just because of the 2020 races didn’t turnout the way republicans wanted is sad and childish. Please understand that when you try to bring down or take away the rights of African-Americans we are going to fight back and come out stronger as we did in the 2020 elections. So, be very careful when you try to target minority areas, because you are going to make us come out even stronger. I am afraid as a African-American US citizen that we have legislators who want to go against the constitution and create legislation to target minorities. This bill is basically saying that people of color are destroying the voting system, because we have too many ways to vote which makes it easier for us to vote and commit voter fraud. Which causes the fear of republicans that there will be more votes and wins for Democrats is ridiculous. We will vote no matter what system or restrictions you put on the voting system, because we are not causing voter fraud or comprising the integrity of voting system. This bill has a hidden agenda that is not hidden. If republicans would do more for minority communities they would not have to create racist legislation, because they would be able to get more votes. As long as republicans believe that they can overlook minorities and their needs they are going to have to continue to create racist legislation and policies will only divide the country even more than it already is. No matter how you word this bill and what you “say” the reason there is a need for it is racist and focused on suppressing the minority vote. Even if this bill passes, minorities will still vote in large numbers. When will you be satisfied? Will you continue to create bills and zone minority areas until we can no longer vote or until republicans can no longer lose??? I will vote against this bill and spread the word so that it will fail.

Mark Fischer

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB6

Charlene McCauley Mayfield

Self

Jacksonville, TX

I am for voting integrity. How about we utilize the blockchain for this.

Barbara Hollis

self

Dallas, TX

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Zoe Alterman

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 6 because voting is a basic right that ALL Texas should have access to. An election should be fair and all encompassing. The goal should be to have a representative that Texans chose, as many as possible. I was a VDVR this last election cycle--I registered people to vote from both parties. I got feedback from almost everyone I registered about hard and confusing the process is to register to vote, and how without me explaining they would have had no idea how to do so. It is possible that humans who are doing this for free, like myself, to help their fellow Texas could make a mistake. To threaten to criminalize this mistake is unjust and intimidating. We have systems in place to catch mistakes, and public servants should not bear the weight of this.

Additionally, to limit poll times, polling places, and methods of voting attacks our state's most vulnerable populations, and frankly the majority of hard working Texans. My friend who is in a wheelchair had the best voting experience of her life because of drive-thru voting. My husband is an attorney and works long hours, and he was so thankful to be able to vote at 7pm after a work day. I used to be a teacher and finding a time to vote was difficult, the 24 hour options was something that myself and many of my coworkers utilized. Texans need options and accessibility. Lines to vote last election cycle were shorter and more efficient in Harris County than ever before. I heard praise from ALL sides of the aisle. Every person was able to find an option that works for them. Voting, a guaranteed civil right should not be difficult. This bill hurts all Texans in the pursuit of civic responsibility, and I, a 5th generation Texan, am extremely disappointed to see it being considered today.

Darlene Welborn

Self/retired

Seguin, TX

I stand opposed to voter suppression. Voter registration & voting must be easy for all citizens.
I will be watching this vote closely.

Beverly Jurenko, Mrs.

self

Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representative Elections Committee:

Thank you for inviting testimony today. My name is Beverly Jurenko. I am a resident of Harris County and I live in the Spring Branch area. My comments are my own, and I am AGAINST HB6.

Representation matters. It matters for all of us, and HB6 seeks to limit voter representation by curtailing access to the polls. HB6 begins by saying that “full, free, and fair elections are the underpinnings of a stable constitutional democracy” and I could not agree more.

However, in spite of this opening that gets our heads nodding in agreement, much of HB6 works against our public interest and will result in lower voter participation. Just because a bill has the words “Election Integrity” in the title doesn’t mean the contents would be helpful. In this case, a number of sections would be quite damaging to our Democracy, and against the spirit of participation. Our Texas government should be inviting to eligible voters rather than spurn them.

What I see in HB6 are a series of measures to limit voter access, and for no good reason. In Harris County in the 2020 General Election, we saw expanded early voting hours and drive-through voting, two ways that invited participation without jeopardizing voter integrity. A bipartisan, multi-agency task force reviewed this election and found ZERO cases of voter fraud. There is no good reason to eliminate such practices unless you simply want to limit voter access. Furthermore, criminalizing expanded early voting access, for no good reason, serves to deter those in charge from challenging these limits in a ridiculous contortion of the spirit of our Democracy.

Furthermore, as one who has served as an election worker at the polls for many years, I can attest to the goodwill of those who do this work. Presiding and Alternate Judges, and their Clerks, accept the responsibility of working from 6 am until often well past 8 pm, a 14+ hour day that begins super early, and we do our best to serve our voters. I have never seen any poll worker try to cheat or make voters uncomfortable, but from time to time we are pressed to make quick decisions and deal with unforeseen situations. I cannot promise we achieve perfection throughout the day and one might make a mistake in the paperwork due to fatigue and stress. To make such a mistake a felony is outrageously unfair to dedicated election workers.

Finally, HB6 does not allow an election official to remove a poll watcher if the poll watcher is threatening, intimidating, or impeding the work of election officials. I support the work of poll watchers, but there needs to be a remedy available to election judges in the moment in the face of disruptive behavior. HB6 overly protects poll watchers at the expense of the election officials from both parties.

I urge you to vote AGAINST HB6 for the reasons discussed above. The Texas House should not fear voter participation, but embrace it for the good of our Democracy.

Brittany Davis

Self, I’m a teacher

Austin, TX

Voting should be accessible to all. This bill will make voting harder for people. It will strip voter rights financially, burden local governments, discourage poll workers, elevate partisan poll watcher power above election official authority, ban drive-through and outdoor voting, restrict voters from dropping off completed absentee ballots, shrink early voting periods, create new costs for disabled voters, increase burdens on voters with disabilities to access assistance at the polls.

Adine Rotman

Self: Watercolor Artist

Houston, TX

I support HB 6.

Please add these improvements: 1) Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots

2) Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Kristal Milazzo

self

Dallas, TX

Senate Bill 7 and House Bill 6 are fundamentally anti-democratic, anti-voter assaults on the right to vote. Last year's election showed that we can increase voter turnout and keep our elections secure if we adopt common-sense reforms. This is nothing more than a power grab to keep the status quo. Every election year I am all too aware of the ridiculous gerrymandering that makes Bob Hall my state senator when I live in the Dallas. More people voted in the last election than in years, for both parties. It is apparent that this bill only wants to count the votes that drafters like.

Curt Locklear

self

Spring, TX

We must make the voting process much tighter, so that people may feel totally confident of the vote results. No more last minute mail in ballots. Period.

Thank you.

Jeanne Payne

Retired

Austin, TX

The last Presidential election highlighted the need for election laws protecting the integrity of the election. Necessary for integrity include the following: secure ballot boxes, no harvesting of ballots, VOTER ID, solicited absentee ballots, no late ballots accepted, no automatic agency registration of voters, bipartisan, poll watchers, and updated voter rolls. Thank you.

Douglas Natelson

self, physics professor

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 6. Fundamentally, voting is a right in a representative democracy, and trying to restrict the franchise should be avoided at the highest priority. Trying to win elections by making it more difficult to vote is simply unAmerican. As an educator, it is clear that normal life circumstances of students and young voters in general make it challenging to get registered and get to the polls. These people go to school all day, have extra curricular activities and jobs at night and/or on weekends and often do not have their own transportation. The populace in general, especially the most vulnerable who have to work multiple jobs and have enormous family commitments, need expanded hours for early voting, not greater limitations. Our goal as elected officials and educators should be to get 100% of all voting age, eligible citizens voting in every election. Elections should be won by persuasion with ideas, not trying to shut out people who face challenges. Our democracy will be stronger and your jobs will be easier if you have an engaged and informed electorate supporting you. I urge you: vote NO for HB 6--a law that focuses on the time-and-again-disproven issue election fraud and seeks to raise barriers to voting rather than reduce them. This bill takes us backwards as democracy not forward. Your constituents overwhelmingly do not support this bill. Again, please vote NO for HB 6.

Jaymie Archer, Mrs

Self

Cypress, TX

Election security is the number one threat to our constitutional republic. While voting is a right afforded to every American it is a duty we should hold dear and protect its sanctity at all costs. Americans need to prioritize their right to vote and make time accordingly - voting should not be treated as a drive through restaurant, where the order (or vote in this case) is rarely accurate. Americans must have confidence their vote was counted as it was intended to be cast and not based upon the whim of those counting the votes. We must demand and preserve a system where the vote casted matters rather than the one who counts the votes.

Demand IN-PERSON voting, excepting a narrowly defined eligibility for certain extenuating circumstances as previously allowed for.

Demand photo identification for all voters.

Prohibit any UNSOLICITED distribution of mass mail in ballots.

Prohibit any UNELECTED individual from altering voter laws with out legislative and/or voter approval. Changes to existing laws must be noticed publicly for appropriate notice and comment prior to advancement to the legislature.

Prohibit ballot harvesting by requiring signature matching on certified mail receipts and the internal ballot. Retain that matching material for audit and inspection.

Demand laws protecting poll watchers and poll workers. Give them whistle blower protections, allow them to have administrative authority to stop polling in locations where certain (defined activities) unlawful violations are detected until the SOS can assess in-person and make a ruling.

Demand poll watchers NOT be prohibited access to any location inside a polling place. Unescorted and unrestricted.

Demand poll watchers are allowed to conceal carry to protect from nefarious actors and personal threats from those attempting to allow and cover up fraud.

Jeannie Forrest

Self

Dallas, TX

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manipulation. Why?

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Victoria Nassif

Self, Actor

Austin, TX

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to this bill, which contributes to voter suppression. We must make voting easy and simple so that all our residents have a voice in the future of our state.

Harriet Harral, Dr.

Self - Consultant

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing in opposition to SB6 because it could prevent the sending of mail-in ballot applications. Mail-in ballots have been objectively demonstrated to be safe. In fact, a Washington Post analysis of data collected by three vote-by-mail states with help from the nonprofit Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) found that officials identified just 372 possible cases of double voting or voting on behalf of deceased people out of about 14.6 million votes cast by mail in the 2016 and 2018 general elections, or 0.0025 percent. This figure reflects cases referred to law enforcement agencies in five elections held in Colorado, Oregon and Washington, where all voters proactively receive ballots in the mail for every election.

A proactive attempt to get ballots to all eligible voters simply makes sense and avoids barriers for seniors and people with disabilities.

Gurpreet Singh

self

Katy, TX

The intention of this bill seems to be a response to the "dangerous, debunked myth of voter fraud" which is unjustly being used as reasoning for these ominous and restrictive bills. This alarmism is disrespectful to the voters of Texas and should not stand. Many claim voter fraud, yet Republicans won many seats, take the tight races between Rep Jacey Jetton and Sarah DeMerchant and Rep Schoefield against Gina Calani. If voter fraud is so rampant and apparent, respectfully, why not investigate these races, and for that matter all races. Overall, I fail to see the validity in your point of "widespread voter fraud." Regardless this is not a justification to make voting harder. What substantial, reputable evidence is there of voter fraud? One might think to thoroughly investigate that first. Nonetheless, the ability to voice one's opinion is the hallmark of our democracy and this bill would make it harder for many from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to access the ballot box. Thank you!

Don Huffines, Senator

Self

Dallas, TX

To The Committee on Elections,

I respectfully urge each of you to do right by the millions of Texans who are losing confidence in our elections process and to pass HB 6 on to the Calendars Committee in its strongest form. It's past time for us to provide greater security to our elections system, here in Texas. I appreciate the Committee's attention to this essential issue and top concern of the grassroots.

God Bless Texas,

The Honorable Don Huffines

Beth Blankenship

self

Dallas, TX

Election Integrity Reform is THE legislative priority

We are fed up with "go along to get along" "business as usual" state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voter registration, voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and public auditability of all: ballots, records, systems and logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever!

- 1) 100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter and ELECTION fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.
- 2) Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a

notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day.

3) Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

4) Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention.

We DEMAND our leaders and representatives stop federal over reach into Texas elections. WHO IS OUR CHAMPION?

Texas Elections! Texas Stakeholders only! Who purged Dallas county votes in 2018 and 2020?

Kristin Cobb

Self

Spring, TX

This bill is a priority. Election integrity is the cornerstone of democracy. This bill will fortify this safeguard by encouraging in-person voting, which has been shown to be more secure, Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications, bans ballot harvesting, and Increase poll watcher access which would result in improved transparency. Such transparency is important to demonstrate to the American people that our democracy is still intact and will a be start for the American people to regain much-needed trust in the current process.

Ronnie Smitherman, Executive Director

Texas Building & Construction Trades Council

Austin, TX

This Bill is voter Suppression at its finest. We need to make it easier to Vote not Harder!

Kanzeana Lamb

Self Paralegal

Webster, TX

Our election integrity is NOT at risk. This bill is moot. It is beyond belief that it is easier to buy a gun in Texas than it is to vote. STOP making it harder to vote.

Dale Helmlinger

Self

Tyler, TX

I am against HB 6 as written as I do not believe that any individual should have the ability and/or authority to modify, suspend or otherwise change any provision of TEXAS state election law that is not stipulated in the TEXAS CONSTITUTION.

Karen Scheer, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

Why wasn't election fraud investigated? Especially electronic vote manipulation. We must have transparency. Legal Texas resident citizens with current picture ID. No endless early voting-2 or 3 days max.

Sven Knudson

self - software engineer

Austin, TX

Why are this bill needed? There has been little to no evidence of voter fraud in past elections. It seems that this bill is just an attempt to keep 'those' people from voting. Voting is a right and should be easy for all citizens to exercise. Access to voting should be expanded, not restricted, so that all citizens can have a say in their government.

Jennifer Johnson

Self/Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

Houston, TX

We need to expand voting access in Texas, not restrict it. Thank you.

Patricia Tamayo-Fagler, Ms

Self

League City, TX

This disposition hinders the ability of under deserving populations. It is voting suppression which will result in voting reduction targeting specific racial groups. This is denying voting rights for communities of color and low socio economic background.

Diana Richards

Self, Volunteer Communications Coordinator

Sherman, TX

Honorable Representative,

As a Native Texan with roots back to the Alamo, I am In Favor of HB6 (Cain) to ultimately protect our future TX elections. It is of utmost importance to increase poll watcher access to improve transparency, stop the practice of ballot harvesting and prohibit mass distribution of unrequested vote-by-mail applications. HB6 also encourages voters to vote in person. As a former Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (through 2020), I learned the need as well for routing verification of voter rolls (especially for removal of deceased individuals) and to thoroughly vet new registrations. It would also be request for there to be voter ID verification for all mail-in and absentee ballots. For these reasons, I respectfully request that HB6 be voted favorably out of Committee and through Calendars for a vote on the Full House Floor. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my request.

José Skinner

Self

Austin, TX

I am adamantly against this bill. I understand the dogwhistle behind the word "purity," but I think this kind of bill plays into the libs' hands, what with H.R. 1 looming at the national level. Please reject HB 6.

Laurel Hays, Dr. & VDVR & Presiding judge during election

Self

Houston, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill, which makes voting harder for disabled folks; discourages election workers; reduces voting opportunities by shortening early voting and eliminating drive through and outdoor voting; and adds financial burdens to disabled people and local municipalities. Voter suppression is immoral and undemocratic. AG Paxton found 16 cases of wrong addresses amongst 17 mil registered voters in 2020. Significant voter fraud does not exist and is not a legitimate excuse for making voting harder.

Dianne Lovett

Self/ Small Business Owner

Bandera, TX

This bill is a shameless assault on voting rights. We should be proud that a record number of Texans came out to vote in 2020, instead of introducing legislation that inhibits the most vulnerable in our state from exercising their constitutional right to vote. As a voter who has voted Republican in the past, I am appalled at this direct attack on democracy itself, and its very ability to survive in these difficult time. There are many reasons for my concern, as there should be for you as lawmakers, as well. Here are only a few:

- This bill makes voting more onerous for our most vulnerable -- voters who have disabilities would have to show a doctor's note in order to get a mail-in ballot. While voters who are elderly would simply sign an application, disabled voters would have to schedule and pay for an additional doctor's appointment weeks in advance of the election just to be able to vote. It is unconscionable that we would put this type of barrier between our disabled community and their right to vote.
- Hundreds of thousands -- if not millions -- of voters across Texas benefitted from the secure voting opportunities that this bill closes off. Voting would take much longer for the Dallas voters who voted on Election Day at the American Airlines Center since they would have many fewer machines to vote on. And the 127,000 Harris County voters who used drive-through voting -- including the tens of thousands of Republicans -- would lose that option.
- This bill would make Texas the laughing stock of the country by ensuring we have hours long lines in our cities every Election Day. By requiring that every polling place have the same number of machines, we would repeat the 8-hour line at Texas Southern University in the 2020 primary election where the last voter didn't cast their ballot until 3am. That was an embarrassment for our state that we should be trying to prevent by improving voting opportunities -- not one we try to recreate by reducing them.

o Note: This requirement only applies to the 75+ counties with county-wide vote centers, which includes all of our biggest counties.

- The bill is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications. In 2020, TDP mailed 1 million Texas senior citizens applications for vote by mail to help them vote safely during the pandemic -- and the Trump campaign sent these applications to their voters, too. That could be criminal if this bill is passed. At the same time, it would ban local election officials from proactively sending these applications to voters, leaving seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot.

Voting in Texas should be easier, not harder. Regardless of your party, do the RIGHT THING. OPPOSE this reprehensible attack on our democracy.

Carol Miller, Dr.

self -- university professor

El Paso, TX

climate change and voting rights and gun control and \$15 minimum wage and fixing the economy are all very important--nothing can be fixed without a democracy supported by voting rights

Victoria Crawford

Self, Reading Interventionist for students with disabilities

KATY, TX

I am commenting as a voter, former campaign volunteer and volunteer voter registrar, and concerned citizen. The measures in this bill criminalize a lot of behaviors that shouldn't be criminalized, like helping voters find voting resources such as mail-in ballot forms. To be honest, the penalties for making a good faith effort to help fellow citizens are so high, and the definitions of wrongdoing so broad that I am afraid I could inadvertently break a law doing many totally normal, legitimate, small-d democratic activities I have done in the past: canvas voters, help voters check their registration status, help voters register to vote, sharing information about legislation and voting. Article 1, section A1.03, #5 of this bill states that "...the reforms to the election laws of this state made by this Act are not intended to impair the right of free suffrage guaranteed to the people of Texas by the United States and Texas Constitution, but are enacted solely to prevent fraud in the electoral process." But I fear that they DO in fact impair the right of free suffrage by making it illegal in many instances to help inform voters of their legal rights and appropriate processes. Attorney General Paxton went to extraordinary lengths to search out voter fraud in the 2020 elections, and found almost none. This entire bill is a solution in search of a problem. The main reason Texas voters have had any concerns about election integrity has been thanks to what amounts to gossip -- people talking up the idea of voter fraud, even when the evidence is that there isn't meaningful levels of voter fraud. If anything, the existence of this bill actually undermines voter confidence by legitimizing paranoid thinking that hasn't been supported by any facts. The 2020 election was very fraught for me as my 17-year-old was critically ill and spent three months in the PICU last fall. I couldn't believe that I wouldn't be able to get an absentee ballot as the only surviving parent of a critically ill child in the PICU, in the middle of a pandemic, no less -- but I wasn't over 65 and I was not myself disabled. I became hopeful when the state's Democratic Party sued to expand mail-in voting, but discouraged when Mr. Paxton worked to shut that down. I left phone messages for the Attorney General's office and realized that that was the sum total of my recourse. You, the state legislature, were not in session, nor will you EVER be in session during our national-level elections, which always fall on even years. We Texas voters have to rely on you doing the right thing by us when you ARE in session. Don't let the voters of Texas down with this bill, don't make it HARDER to vote when we know you won't be around to fix this when election day comes around again in 2022. Please instead EXPAND access to the mail-in ballot for caregivers of critically ill and disabled citizens. My daughter passed away last fall and I provide this testimony in her honor.

susan and Grant Reading

Parish Episcopal School

Dallas, TX, TX

We Texans, along with the rest of the citizens of this country, have never been satisfied that the Presidential 2020 election was not fraught with fraud. Going forward, we want total transparency in all elections. To accomplish this, we need to go back to procedures that allow for such. Computers should be limited in their use- definitely not to record votes, weight votes, etc. Precincts should be incorporated once again to prevent fraudulent voting. Voter roles must be purged at least once a year. Voters must be expected to be able to prove that they live in precinct and are registered. This is not a hardship, it's just what we must demand to reduce fraud. For almost 40 years, my husband and I have worked as judge and clerk in every election. We have seen what works and what invites illegal activity. We are tired of hearing how oppressive it is for certain people to get voter IDs, That is nothing but a lie! Don't let our elections be stolen! Thank you.

Julia Dahlberg

Self

LA VERNIA, TX

I am in support of HB6 to strengthen our election integrity, prevent fraud and increasing accountability and criminal penalties. Please pass this bill out of committee.

Deborah Wallis

Self. Payroll manager.

Richardson, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early voting and election day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity, that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal over reach into Texas elections is stopped. Texas Elections! There should be a constitutional amendment allowing only Texas tax payers to vote.

Sujata Neidig, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Saundra Allen

Self

Austin, TX

No ballot harvesting, need voter ID, purge the rolls,
No after Election Day reception of ballots, no mail out ballots without request

Amy Fanguy-White

self

Kyle, TX

Why do you need to know a disabled person's personal information, and their reason for having assistance in voting. Government does not need to know why I need assistance and how I need assistance when evoking my right to vote by the Constitution of the United States of America. Why does the State of Texas feel like it needs to know all my personal information and proof that I am disabled, when I have registered and have a valid DL and passed all requirements to vote? It is almost like you are trying to suppress voters who are disabled, elderly, or veterans with disabilities. We seem to be missing the fact that this bill will bring a larger disparity to a certain section of the population and making it harder to vote in Texas.

Anne-Marie Racelis

Self/Student/COS

El Paso, TX

I agree with that this bill should be passed because this country is supposed to be ran by the people. We should be able to vote and have confidence that our vote will be counted correctly. I also completely agree that anyone caught in the act of voter fraud should receive felony jail time.

Tara Alt

Self, homemaker

McKinney, TX

I have worked as a volunteer for various aspects of Texas elections for years and while I've never seen fraud, I have seen plenty of evidence of voter suppression resulting from Texas' extremely and purposefully confusing voting regulations. This bill would only add to those suppression tactics. Texas voters deserve better, deserve ease of voting and online registration. Voting is its right and we are damn tired of Texas infringing upon it. Vote NO on HB6.

Rod Chalmers, Constable

Self - Bandera County Constable

Utopia, TX

These proposed revisions in election rules for our state are absolutely necessary to maintain the integrity of our elections, and I endorsed each aspect of HB 6.

Matt Parker

Self

New Braunfels, TX

HB 6 - There is nothing more sacred, and needs to be preserved and protected more, than that of our election system. It is what sets us apart from countries without hope knowing the ballot boxes are stuffed and often rigged. Integrity matters, and the Texan standard needs to be set high, for other states to one day model and emulate. Secure the integrity of our elections, of our votes, to secure and preserve a free and more prosperous country for tomorrow.

Daloma Armentrout

Self, disabled retired caregiver

Austin, TX

I support expanded voting opportunities and rights, not false premises about election security.

Andrea Hughes

Self- Retired

Dallas, TX

I STRONGLY agree with the following statement. I beg you to address the election fraud that is rampant in our state and nation.

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Blake Barnard

self

ADDISON, TX

There was election fraud in the 2020 election. There was documented electronic vote manipulation. No one should be in denial.

We need to ensure that only lawful Texas citizens with a picture ID can vote.

All election results must be audible.

Election fraud penalties need to be strengthened.

Eliminate early and absentee (other than military) voting.

Return to paper ballots only.

Stop federal involvement in both state and local elections.

The survival of our republican form of government, which means both our state and nation, depend on these election law changes.

Glen Risley

Precinct 146, Harris County Party

Houston, TX

A democracy can only exist until the voters elect representatives who will use their power to take resources from producers and distribute them to consumers. The power of consumers is multiplied through the removal of requirements to access the ballot. Until Constitutional restrictions are better understood as beneficial to the electorate, universal suffrage is a threat to the common good. Current representation operates to purchase votes through handout programs. Fraud tends to work in favor of government interference in the free market.

Peter Lovett

Self/ Small Business Owner

Bandera, TX

This bill is a shameless assault on voting rights. We should be proud that a record number of Texans came out to vote in 2020, instead of introducing legislation that inhibits the most vulnerable in our state from exercising their constitutional right to vote. As a voter who has voted Republican in the past, I am appalled at this direct attack on democracy itself, and its very ability to survive in these difficult time. There are many reasons for my concern, as there should be for you as lawmakers, as well. Here are only a few:

- This bill makes voting more onerous for our most vulnerable -- voters who have disabilities would have to show a doctor's note in order to get a mail-in ballot. While voters who are elderly would simply sign an application, disabled voters would have to schedule and pay for an additional doctor's appointment weeks in advance of the election just to be able to vote. It is unconscionable that we would put this type of barrier between our disabled community and their right to vote.
- Hundreds of thousands -- if not millions -- of voters across Texas benefitted from the secure voting opportunities that this bill closes off. Voting would take much longer for the Dallas voters who voted on Election Day at the American Airlines Center since they would have many fewer machines to vote on. And the 127,000 Harris County voters who used drive-through voting -- including the tens of thousands of Republicans -- would lose that option.
- This bill would make Texas the laughing stock of the country by ensuring we have hours long lines in our cities every Election Day. By requiring that every polling place have the same number of machines, we would repeat the 8-hour line at Texas Southern University in the 2020 primary election where the last voter didn't cast their ballot until 3am. That was an

embarrassment for our state that we should be trying to prevent by improving voting opportunities -- not one we try to recreate by reducing them.

o Note: This requirement only applies to the 75+ counties with county-wide vote centers, which includes all of our biggest counties.

• The bill is so broad that it could inhibit political parties, candidates and civic organizations from sending our voters key voting resources, such as mail ballot applications. In 2020, TDP mailed 1 million Texas senior citizens applications for vote by mail to help them vote safely during the pandemic -- and the Trump campaign sent these applications to their voters, too. That could be criminal if this bill is passed. At the same time, it would ban local election officials from proactively sending these applications to voters, leaving seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot.

Voting in Texas should be easier, not harder. Regardless of your party, do the RIGHT THING. OPPOSE this reprehensible attack on our democracy.

Aliza Geretz

Harris County, Senate District 17, Chair, HCDP

Houston, TX

My constituents and I are strongly opposed to HB6.

HB 6 would complicate voting and add unnecessary procedures that would subject voters, those assisting voters, and public officials to criminal penalties. HB 6 threatens volunteer workers with penalties and criminal proceedings. These volunteer workers contribute their time to offer fellow citizens the ability to vote. Election Judges and Clerks follow the law and do their best to serve their communities.

HB 6 jeopardizes polling place safety by giving poll watchers (who are partisan appointees) unwarranted authority to intrude upon and intimidate voters and election officials. This is harmful to voters.

HB 6 also limits the ability of voters to access applications for voting by mail. Voters should be able to choose the safest and best way for themselves to vote.

False claims of 'widespread voter fraud' are being used to limit opportunities for voters to cast a ballot. These claims lack evidence and have been disproved in multiple lawsuits. The REAL problems with our election system are the polling place closures, cuts to early voting, onerous voter ID laws, and the illegal purge of registered voters. Thank you.

Kassiopia Jackson

Self

Addison, TX

As a Texas resident who voted for the second time in my lifetime in November 2020 to see my vote mean nothing due to the failures of elected Judges who opted to accept a pay off from a cabal of wealthy try-hards, according to a Times article which claimed these millionaires and billionaires sought to "fortify the 2020 election", election integrity is a crucial issue that must be tackled by every state included Texas.

I do not understand how people can be opposed to election integrity yet will cry about systemic racism within the Government ignoring the voices of Americans to promote an agenda of racism and oppression. The best tool to fight oppression is to fight for everyone's voice to be heard unfettered by Government interference. Ensuring election integrity is a no brainer issue regardless of what party you support yet, it seems the strongest voices opposed to election integrity legislation happen to be the individuals at the top who have something to lose should election integrity laws be passed.

My question to those Government officials at the local, state, and federal level who oppose election integrity laws is this: If your platform is so poor you resort to cheating and deceiving your supporters to continue to get re-elected, has it ever occurred to you that perhaps you're the corrupt rot at the top that people are talking about? If you can't win through legitimate means, maybe you fail to put forth any worthwhile promises that reveal your intent to support the individuals in your district, county, or state.

Stooping to deception to maintain power is what dictators do. For anyone to deny the significance of election integrity legislation or to claim that it's some how racist (As an aside, stop this. Minorities are more than capable of obtaining a state ID and driver's license. To claim we can't because we lack the knowledge or access is belittling to our abilities as minorities to function as adults.) to deceive supporters into voting against legislation which is in their best interest for their own benefit is a gross power trip.

HB 6 must be heard, passed to the Senate, approved, and made a law point blank. There is no rational debate against safe guarding our future elections.

Carol Nichols, Ms

Self

Buda, TX

There's nothing about purity in this bill. I'm a 74 year old native Texan & Texas has been deteriorating for years bc GOP is frightened by competition as our minority population is growing. That is why they provoke s crisis at the border. The new people to our country fill the jobs that the anti immigration group won't take. It's in Christian to blame people seeking safety in US as criminals & dangerous.

Suzanne Wofford

self

Austin, TX

O: House Committee on Elections Chairman Briscoe Cain, Briscoe.Cain@house.texas.gov CC: Vice-Chair, Jessica.González@house.texas.gov Representative Michelle.Beckley@house.texas.gov Representative John.Bucy_III@house.texas.gov Representative Travis.Clardy@house.texas.gov Representative Art.Fierro@house.texas.gov Representative Jacey.Jetton@house.texas.gov Representative Mike.Schofield@house.texas.gov Representative Valoree.Swanson@house.texas.gov

What can more important and more American than the right of EVERY American of age to cast a ballot to vote for officials determined by a majority of citizens. ANY effort to stand in the way of that ballot should be a criminal offense, and that includes legislators who attempt to diminish that right.

Ask yourself what you will do when the topic is gun legislation that is necessary to protect lives, including those of children. If the answer is that you adamantly stand by the right of every American to carry a gun, even a lethal automatic, compare that thinking to what you are doing to stand in the way of Americans casting a ballot in an election to freely exercise their right which in no way will be harmful to another person. Which one really projects a danger? Which one can be deadly? Which one is not supported by every citizen? Which one is a no-brainer to protect a right of every American? Which one do Americans go to war to protect? Which one involves probable danger to American lives? Which one impedes the exercise of rights which are not harmful to any one?

House Bill 6 does NOT promote full and fair elections. It negates and intimidates the rights of voters with possible criminal offenses for those volunteers, registrars, election workers who are trying to support voting rights. The theme seems to be finding as many obstacles as possible to impede the voting rights of ordinary American citizens.

You and I are alike in that we are citizens of privilege and education, but many of our fellow citizens do not enjoy those circumstances. You can be sure that they are learning how to stand up and be counted because a Fair Fight for those rights to vote is underway. I support the exercise of those rights because I am disgusted and angry that there are elected officials who are so afraid of a vote by every American that they will do whatever they can to prevent that exercise of freedom. I don't know what the election results will be, but if I can count on it was a fair election, open to all legal voters, I will accept those results.

You have a responsibility to uphold the laws and Constitution of the United States, and that included the rights of voters in the 14th, 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments. The political party should not enter into any decision which denies those rights in any way.

Thank you for your service to our state. I will pray for your good judgment in making decisions that protect the people you serve.

William Gallagher

Self (Retired)

Mabank, TX

We are suffering fraudulent elections partially due to the Secretary of State changing voting laws without the support/input of the legislature. We need to throttle back the ability to ignore/change election laws by the SOS. Please strengthen and pass this legislation.

Christopher Sacia

Self - Consultant

Eules, TX

Members of the committe,

I write in support of this bill. Our election process need to be the most secure and transparent in the world. Any efforts made to advance that cause should be passed into law as soon as possible.

Thank you

Ernest Angelo

Self

Midland, TX

I am in favor of this legislation to improve the integrity and transparency of Texas elections.

Elissa Sterling

Volunteer deputy voter registrar

Austin, TX

I support expanded access to the ballot box. I support online voter registration, expanded voting hours and longer early voting periods. I support no-excuse vote by mail.??

Martha Beach

Martha Beach

Dallas, TX

Please don't vote for this

Trudence Jamar

myself

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill.

Sonja Keen

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill to preserve our democracy. The voting system/ integrity should be protected AT ALL COST! Americans are disappointed at the lack of support from our federal courts to investigate the 2020 presidential election. So much evidence but no one will touch it.

Christopher Grisolia

Advocate

Krum, TX

I very strongly oppose this bill. We should be ensuring everyone has easy, verified access to voting here in Texas. We cannot call ourselves the biggest and best state in the union if we hamper one single person from their right of voting in any election they choose.

Judy Brannon

Self-dyslexia therapist

Katy, TX

Our leaders must do better than this. The integrity of our elections is intact but the integrity of our elected officials comes into question when some propose these measures. Democracy is strong when ALL participate in the process—whether those who participate agree with those in power, or not. This very thing is why free, fair and ACCESSIBLE elections must continue. Casting a ballot to vote your conscience should be made easier, not harder. This bill goes against the ideals of our great state and our country. We all lose when we create barriers for others who disagree with us from casting ballots in our elections. I probably disagree with the majority of our state legislators but I would defend your right to vote however you please. Please do the same for me and for all Texans!

Michele Haram

Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Austin, TX

There is no evidence that this is a problem. Voter suppression is a very real problem. We should make it easier not harder to vote.

Amanda Sadler

Self

Keller, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. Thank you.

Walter Overland, Jr., CTRC USN(Ret)

Self

Conroe, TX

I STRONGLY request your support of this bill. It will HELP GREATLY in increasing ELECTION INTEGRITY and IMPROVE ELECTION INTEGRITY. Thank you for your support.

Carolyn Hinch, Retired

Self

Katy, TX

Voter integrity is so important. I totally support in person voting, very limited mail in voting, no curbside voting , and only a week for early voting. Poll workers need to be protected from bullying when in a hostile poll site. Poll watchers need to be able to see that the ballots are handled correct.

Alison Boleware, Government Relations Director

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

Austin, TX

The National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter (NASW/TX) strongly opposes HB 6 (Cain). NASW/TX represents over 5,000 social workers across the state and advocates for the health and wellbeing of all Texans, including their voting rights. NASW/TX opposes HB 6 because the bill would target Texas' most vulnerable populations, specifically older adults and voters with disabilities, from utilizing accessible means of obtaining a mail-in ballot. According to the Texas Secretary of State, Texas there are 16,676,353 registered voters. During the November 2020 Presidential Election The New York Times reported that approximately 26% of Texan voters were the age of 65 and older which demonstrates the large portion of elderly Texans who may be negatively impacted by HB 6. In addition, that same The New York Times article reported other highlighted voting disparities between majority and marginalized groups. For example, only 28% of voters had a household income of less than \$50,000 and shocking 7% of voters were from a rural or small town community. HB 6 would protect poll “watchers” by penalizing election workers who seek to remove poll “watchers” from election sites.

HB 6 would further the illegal disruption and harassment by the poll “watchers” which may negatively impact vulnerable Texans. This bill would prohibit and criminalize the distribution of voting resources, such as mail ballot applications, unless an individual specifically requests a mailed ballot. NASW/TX stands against voter suppression and advocates fiercely for the voting rights of all Texans, particularly those from marginalized communities and asks that the Committee not move this bill forward.

Alex Meed

Self, cybersecurity analyst

Austin, TX

Under Rule 4, Section 23A, of the Texas House of Representatives, the presiding officer of a committee may recognize a member of the House who is not a member of the committee. Right before the lunch recess, the presiding officer recognized a member of the House. Why, then, did another committee member who was not presiding attempt to deny the House member the recognition she had already been granted?

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Meed

JESSE AGUILERA

American GI Forum / Tarrant County Forum

Fort Worth, TX

As a member of A Veterans Organization that was founded on fighting discrimination against WWII Hispanic military veterans during the Jim Crow days of American history I am deeply saddened and highly angered by the attempt to suppress voter participation. It bothers me that a state legislator would try to push a bill for a make believe problem instead of trying to put State attention on the current major needs of the state like electricity, education and health. We have real problems like a failed power grid that killed people, Like failure of the State of Texas to adequately control the spread of a virus that has killed many Texans, and of course the new reality of the education system that needs State attention and if not properly supported will destroy our crippled economy.

The claims of voter fraud have not been to be true. The only Voter Fraud in Texas seems to be perpetuated by those elected leaders who continue to tell lies to Texans. As an election worker I have observed an already cumbersome process that will only be hampered by this bill. This past couple of years I have been embarrassed by news stories showing long lines of Texans at the polls waiting hours to vote because the system is set up to discourage voters.

My Father was a WWII veteran who instilled duty to country as a family value. He stepped up when his country needed him thus I too served our country in 1969 when called (just doing my duty). We fought to protect the rights for all Americans and I now call on State Representatives to do their sworn duty protect Texas citizens from the return of Jim Crow open discrimination.

Tommy Thomas

self

Tomball, TX

We have got to fix election integrity, I was a Poll wathcer last election and witnessed a large number of infrcation, they were turned in but nothing has happend.

Barb Stauffer

self, retired

Garland, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

I am fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.

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allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on election day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

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Catherine Gibb

Self

Plano, TX

I speak in favor of HB 6 for many reasons and here are a few of them: (1) there is voter fraud occurring which disenfranchises legal voters; (2) A person should only be able to vote in their state of residence in any election. It is dishonest to vote twice. (3) There should be penalties for violating election laws that have "teeth" in them and these should be pursued; there must be substantial consequences for those who violate election laws; (4) Poll watchers should be allowed to watch the process so people can have confidence that elections are on the up and up (5) election judges should follow the law and be held accountable if they put false information on an affidavit required for provisional voting. (6) vote harvesting and paying for collecting votes should be illegal. The opportunity for fraud is rampant when you start paying people for votes. I have served as the primary administrator for the Collin County Republican Party since 2006 and election integrity must be a priority. This bill should become law.

Edwin Harris

Self

Austin, TX

Texas must pass election reform measures to discourage election, voter, and ballot fraud. Measures should include mandatory voter ID and signature verification, elimination of mail-in ballots, weeks-long early voting, drop boxes, third-party ballot harvesting, and internet-based vote tabulation. The system should be more transparent and auditable, and focused on hand counting paper ballots rather than digital records. We should also keep private parties and the federal government out of the voter registration and precinct funding. have direct knowledge of poll watchers being escorted out of multiple precincts (at request of precinct officials) when performing their sworn duties. So, legislation should also protect the rights and safety of election volunteers and increase criminal penalties for fraud and cheating.

Niloufar Hafizi

self/lawyer

Katy, TX

This bill has many problematic provisions that will enhance Texas' unfortunate reputation of hostility to voting rights. The provisions relating to poll watchers are especially concerning. Section 32.077 would hamstring election judges who need to remove disruptive poll watchers. This past election, voter harassment at polling places did occur, in other states and in Texas. Poll watchers who create an environment of intimidation could not be removed by the election judge unless they commit an election-fraud related offense. Election judges who try to keep intimidation out of their polling place could be prosecuted.

Furthermore, HB 6 unnecessarily criminalizes mistakes or omissions that parties might make when assisting voters with absentee ballots. HB 6 goes on to criminalize, in Section 276.015, the mailing of unrequested absentee ballots to eligible voters. This provision goes out of its way to penalize the perfectly innocuous decision by some elections offices to send eligible voters ballots. Overall, this bill would enact draconian measures to address nonexistent voter fraud, while making voter intimidation at polling places more likely.

Teresa Thomas

Self

Tomball, TX

Please help, we have to have election integrity, I was a poll watcher last election and was threatened by a AJ and nothing has happened. The infractions were to numerous to list here but were also turned in with nothing happening.

A Westrich

Self

Houston, TX

Dear [legislator],

As a constituent who supports civic engagement, I urge you to vote against SB 7 and similar bills that would restrict our voting rights. SB 7 and HB 6 unduly impacts voters with disabilities, people transporting voters to the polls, and hourly workers.

Fair elections depend on many dedicated people who ensure that the process works for all. I trust election officials to make voting a positive experience. SB 7 greatly complicates the experience and risks making it a nightmare for many. It would instill fear where there should be trust.

SB 7 and HB 6, and a great many bills with similar provisions, makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system. It fails to provide them confidence that their vote will be counted.

We saw great voter enthusiasm in 2020 and celebrated the significant increase in voter turnout, despite overwhelming challenges. Texas state and county election officials believe the results accurately reflect the will of the people. Texans want voting to be safe, easy, and accessible, and I urge you to reject these unwarranted bills.

I encourage you to support online voter registration and same-day voter registration that can save taxpayers money on the antiquated voter registration system in Texas, one of only 10 states that do not have online registration.

Thank you, A Westrich

Anthony Hollister

Self

Kennard, TX

Please stop trying to make it more difficult to vote.

This bill and SB 7 making voting and elections more difficult for voters, and the public officials who manage the election process.

There have been very few cases of voter fraud.

We should be making it easier to vote not harder.

Marianna Maguire

Self as well as the Hispanic conservatives movement we're growing in Montgomery county

Spring, TX

Ladies and gentlemen:

Our country has taken a SHARP LEFT turn toward socialism.

Those who don't know enough about it, think highly of it and are gullible, naive, and easily led into believing that mama government needs to take care of them.

And then there are the EVIL ones who know EXACTLY what socialism represents, how to secure it, what it leads to, and what political benefits it reaps them by securing power. Some of those who come to mind include the leftist liberals of the Democrat party; the fourth branch of government, being the media; large and wealthy corporations who directly finance and influence elections by buying-off votes in many creative ways; the Hollywood cartel with many so called "entertainers" who have openly advocated for and fundraised for murders such as Castro, Chavez, Maduro, Ortega, etc., and oh so many more examples.

Socialism is slavery. It destabilizes a country and ultimately destroys it.

We Hispanics, hail from many countries where ELECTION FRAUD is absolutely NORMAL. In certain countries, you are required by law to show up and vote or be fined. In others, you cast your vote with an election official looking over your shoulder. And hopefully you voted correctly or risk you and your family being blacklisted. Some countries have cartel members overseeing their elections who cast votes on the citizens' behalf, to save them the "inconvenience".

This is NOT how America, my America, will be.

To not want CLEAN elections for your own country, but instead, engage in the weasel socialist moves that Hispanics are used to, is disgusting, disgraceful, corrupt, and evil. It is UN-American. It is ANTI-American.

Do you want clean elections or do you want to mistrust the entire process and always question your own government? Do you want elections with ZERO standards, laws, rules, guarantees, and opens the door for corruption, crime, bribes, danger, etcetera?

America is FREE. We are still FREE to vote. Clean it up and keep it clean, else, I'll buy you a ticket to a socialist utopia of your choosing. You deserve it if election integrity is not important.

The rhetoric used to keep election integrity bills from being heard is the same old, tired, expected, repetitive talk that Hispanics know 1st hand. We're not buying it!

A socialist' goals are to produce CHAOS, retain power, grow government, and enslave the people through the welfare state they create.

Elections are the bridge to socialism or freedom.

Election integrity is paramount to keeping America FREE.

I don't know about you, but we're neither today nor tomorrow isn't looking good for socialism if I and millions of other Hispanics have anything to say about it.

Do your jobs. Vote FREEDOM. Always. And vote FOR election integrity.

Thank you and God bless.

Benjamin Miller

self / student

Austin, TX

This bill is predicated on lies about rampant voter fraud. Only the most basic understanding of math is required to know that no threats of these types to our elections really exist...other than actions like these. To prove the point, I am providing some quick statistics that demonstrate this bill is nothing more than a desperate partisan attempt to cling to power through restricting the franchise rather than put in the work necessary to expand your party's base. People like me, who understand the underlying motives, will continue to work to counter these measures until every citizen of the United States and resident of Texas has free and fair access to the ballot and an equal weight of their vote. Stats:

Between 2002 and 2012 - only 51 people convicted of voter fraud in Texas. Only 4 of those were for voter impersonation - the basis of the ID law push - see next

Even less on national scale - Out of 197 million votes cast for federal candidates between 2002 and 2005, only 40 voters were indicted for voter fraud - Only 26 of those resulted in convictions or guilty pleas.

Even the conservative Heritage Foundation cannot disguise the absence of these instances in their database: In Texas since 1979, there have only been 17 criminal convictions for Ineligible Voting, 5 for Impersonation Fraud At The Polls, and 2 for Duplicate Voting

As for voting by mail - here's a quote from Lorraine Minnite, a professor at Rutgers and author of The Myth of Voter Fraud:

"The conservative Heritage Foundation has compiled data that they have relied on for more than a decade to promote the erroneous idea that voter fraud is real, rampant, easy to commit and easy to hide. Their database, going back to 1988, actually contains just 206 cases of "Fraudulent Use of an Absentee Ballot," or roughly six or seven cases per year. Over this same period more than 1.6 billion votes were cast in federal elections alone."

Thanks for your time. I would ask for you all to take the right and intellectually honest action and reject this bill, but I know you won't.

Phil Suitt

Self/ rancher - retired Police

Buda, TX

I do support this bill on Election Integrity. I want my vote to count. Dead individuals must be removed from voter rolls and one person one vote must be upheld with no voter machine switching of votes. I also support voter identification by Drivers License or other secure means.

Eleanor Bigbie

Self

Hideaway, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

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Doreen Kent, Mrs

Self

Richardson, TX

Election integrity has to be the most important concern of every legal citizen of the United States!

It holds our freedoms in our hands and certainly is worth standing up for! Please do all you can do to keep elections in Texas and America safe from fraud! God bless you & God bless Texas!

Mark lockhart

Self. Nurse

Little Elm, TX

We can not have election integrity until all votes are verified with identification. The electronic system is vulnerable. These are great steps in the right direction. We must have a record of the registered voters and be able to verify people have only voted once. The mail in ballots are highly vulnerable to fraud and must be validated with some identification the computer systems have to be monitored and checked for fraudulent actions. Changing ballots adding ballots. We the people have had our fundamental constitutional rights violated by the fraud that is and has been in our voting system. We the people are watching every bill that is passed. We are reading every line. Your diligence in serving the people of this great state is more important than ever. You must fight for the rights of freedom and democracy.

Edi Sowers

Self - retired Naval officer

Cedar Park, TX

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James Richards

Self, Computer Programming and Development

Sherman, TX

I am testifying ON HB6.I am for HB6 so long as it fully protects all lawful Texas voters. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents, and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators, and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware, and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers, and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

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Dianna Biscan

Self

Plano, TX

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David Kemp

Self

Plano, TX

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